

## STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Tuesday 15 November 2022 at 7.30 pm

Place: Council Chamber, EpsomTown Hall

Link for public online access to this meeting:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1287980442367887887>

Telephone (listen-only): 0202 3713 5022, Telephone Access code: 340-337-225

The members listed below are summoned to attend the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting, on the day and at the time and place stated, to consider the business set out in this agenda.

Councillor Neil Dallen (Chair)  
Councillor Hannah Dalton (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Kate Chinn  
Councillor Monica Coleman  
Councillor Liz Frost

Councillor David Gulland  
Councillor Graham Jones  
Councillor Colin Keane  
Councillor Eber Kington  
Councillor Alan Williamson

Yours sincerely



Interim Chief Executive

For further information, please contact Democratic Services, email: [democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk) or tel: 01372 732000

### **EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

No emergency drill is planned to take place during the meeting. If the fire alarm sounds continuously, or if you are instructed to do so, you must leave the building by the nearest available exit. You will be directed to the nearest exit by council staff. It is vital that you follow their instructions.

- You should proceed calmly; do not run and do not use the lifts;
- Do not stop to collect personal belongings;
- Once you are outside, please do not wait immediately next to the building, but move to the assembly point at Dullshot Green and await further instructions; and
- Do not re-enter the building until told that it is safe to do so.

## Public information

**Please note that this meeting will be held at the Town Hall, Epsom and will be available to observe live on the internet**

This meeting will be open to the press and public to attend as an observer using free GoToWebinar software, or by telephone.

A link to the online address for this meeting is provided on the first page of this agenda and on the Council's website. A telephone connection number is also provided on the front page of this agenda as a way to observe the meeting, and will relay the full audio from the meeting as an alternative to online connection. A limited number of seats will also be available in the public gallery at the Town Hall. For further information please contact Democratic Services, email: [democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk), telephone: 01372 732000.

Information about the terms of reference and membership of this Committee are available on the [Council's website](#). The website also provides copies of agendas, reports and minutes.

Agendas, reports and minutes for this Committee are also available on the free Modern.Gov app for iPad, Android and Windows devices. For further information on how to access information regarding this Committee, please email us at [Democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk](mailto:Democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk).

## Exclusion of the Press and the Public

There are no matters scheduled to be discussed at this meeting that would appear to disclose confidential or exempt information under the provisions Schedule 12A of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985. Should any such matters arise during the course of discussion of the below items or should the Chairman agree to discuss any other such matters on the grounds of urgency, the Committee will wish to resolve to exclude the press and public by virtue of the private nature of the business to be transacted.

## Questions from the Public

Questions from the public are permitted at meetings of this Committee. Any person wishing to ask a question at a meeting of this Committee must register to do so, as set out below.

Up to 30 minutes will be set aside for written or oral questions from any member of the public who lives, works, attends an educational establishment or owns or leases land in the Borough on matters within the Terms of Reference of the Strategy and Resources Committee which may not include matters listed on a Committee Agenda.

All questions whether written or oral must consist of one question only, they cannot consist of multi parts or of a statement.

The question or topic may not relate to a specific planning application or decision under the Planning Acts, a specific application for a licence or permit of any kind, the personal affairs of an individual, or a matter which is exempt from disclosure or confidential under the Local Government Act 1972. Questions which in the view of the Chairman are vexatious or frivolous will not be accepted.

To register to ask a question at a meeting of this Committee, please contact Democratic Services, email: [democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk), telephone: 01372 732000.

Written questions must be received by Democratic Services by noon on the tenth working day before the day of the meeting. For this meeting this is **Noon, Tuesday 1 November 2022**

Registration for oral questions is open until noon on the second working day before the day of the meeting. For this meeting this is **Noon, Friday 11 November 2022**

## **AGENDA**

### **1. QUESTION TIME**

To take any questions from members of the Public.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members are asked to declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in respect of any item of business to be considered at the meeting.

### **3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 5 - 12)**

The Committee is asked to confirm as a true record the Minutes and Restricted Minutes of the meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 29 September and to authorise the Chair to sign them.

### **4. DEVOLUTION, COUNTY DEALS AND THE LEVELLING UP AGENDA (Pages 13 - 22)**

This report sets out the background relating to devolution, County Deals and the Levelling Up agenda currently being pursued by the Government. It also covers the way in which this has been received in Surrey and the implications and opportunities offered by participation in the negotiation of a future County Deal. The report also makes reference to previous initiatives that have involved possible local government reorganisation.

### **5. POLLING DISTRICT AND PLACES REVIEW 2022 (Pages 23 - 112)**

This report sets out the outcome of the consultation process on Polling Places and Districts and makes recommendations for proposed changes.

### **6. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (Pages 113 - 114)**

The Committee is asked to consider whether it wishes to pass a resolution to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the business involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act (as amended) and that pursuant to paragraph 10 of Part 2 of the said Schedule 12A the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

### **7. INCOME GENERATING OPPORTUNITY (Pages 115 - 132)**

This report has not been published because the meeting is likely to be closed to the press and public in view of the nature of the business to be transacted/nature of the proceedings. The report deals with information relating to the financial or business affairs of the Committee and third parties and the public interest in maintaining the exemption currently outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

**8. COST OF LIVING PAYMENT** (Pages 133 - 136)

This report has not been published because the meeting is likely to be closed to the press and public in view of the nature of the business to be transacted/nature of the proceedings. The report deals with information relating to the financial or business affairs of the Committee and third parties and the public interest in maintaining the exemption currently outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

**9. LAND RETENTION** (Pages 137 - 144)

This report has not been published because the meeting is likely to be closed to the press and public in view of the nature of the business to be transacted/nature of the proceedings. The report deals with information relating to the financial or business affairs of the Committee and third parties and the public interest in maintaining the exemption currently outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

**10. COMMERCIAL PROPERTY UPDATE** (Pages 145 - 156)

This report has not been published because the meeting is likely to be closed to the press and public in view of the nature of the business to be transacted/nature of the proceedings. The report deals with information relating to the financial or business affairs of the Committee and third parties and the public interest in maintaining the exemption currently outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE held on  
29 September 2022**

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**PRESENT -**

Councillor Neil Dallen (Chair); Councillor Hannah Dalton (Vice-Chair); Councillors Kate Chinn, Liz Frost, David Gulland, Graham Jones, Eber Kington and Humphrey Reynolds (as nominated substitute for Councillor Monica Coleman)

In Attendance:

Absent: Councillor Monica Coleman, Councillor Colin Keane and Councillor Alan Williamson

Officers present: Jackie King (Interim Chief Executive), Clare Lawrence (Director of Environment, Housing & Regeneration), Andrew Bircher (Head of Policy and Corporate Resources), Mark Shephard (Head of Property and Regeneration), Sue Emmons (Chief Accountant), Tony Foxwell (Senior Surveyor) and Tim Richardson (Democratic Services Manager)

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**20 QUESTION TIME**

No questions were asked by members of the public.

**21 ORDER OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

The Chair informed the Committee that items 6 (IT Strategy Review) and 8 (Horton Cemetery) of the agenda pack had been withdrawn from the agenda and would not be considered at the meeting. The Chair also informed the Committee that an additional urgent item in relation to the extension of the Interim Monitoring Officer appointment had been added to the agenda and would be considered as item 8 of the meeting, as a decision regarding the renewal of the Monitoring Officer's contract was required.

**22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following declarations were made in relation to Items of business to be discussed at the meeting:

Horton Chapel

Councillor David Gulland, Other Interest: In the interests of openness and transparency, Councillor David Gulland declared that he had been the Treasurer

and a Trustee of the Horton Chapel Arts & Heritage Society, but had resigned these positions and did not consider that he had a pecuniary or prejudicial interest with regard to this item.

## 23 IT STRATEGY REVIEW

This item was withdrawn from the agenda and was not considered at the meeting.

## 24 HORTON CEMETERY

This item was withdrawn from the agenda and was not considered at the meeting.

## 25 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 29 March 2022, 4 July 2022 and 26 July 2022 and Restricted Minutes of the meetings of the Committee on 29 March 2022 and 26 July 2022 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

## 26 COMMUNITY & WELLBEING CENTRE BOILER REPLACEMENT CAPITAL PROJECT

The Committee received a report requesting authorisation to increase the budget for the Community & Wellbeing Centre boilers replacement project.

The following matters were considered:

- a) **Alternative heating sources.** The Committee noted that officers had investigated the possibility of providing a ground-source heat pump or air-source heat pump for the premises, but that these had been found to not be viable for the building due to its insulation.
- b) **Savings provided by new boilers and controls.** The Committee noted that the proposed new boilers and controls were estimated to provide a 25% saving in the electricity running costs. This reduction would be relative to the energy costs at the time.
- c) **Arrangements during works.** Following a question from a member, officers informed the Committee that the works would be undertaken in such a manner as to not disrupt the normal operation of the Centre.
- d) **Securing project at current costs.** The Committee noted that it was proposed that the works to replace the boilers would be undertaken in the summer of 2023 and considered that Officers should be approved to confirm arrangements with suppliers to avoid inflationary costs.
- e) **Amendment to recommendation.** Councillor Hannah Dalton proposed and Councillor Liz Frost seconded an amendment to include an additional recommendation as follows:

“That the Committee authorise the purchase of the equipment required now to carry out the works.”

Upon being put the amendment was carried unanimously.

Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to:

- (1) **Authorise additional funding of £55,000 from the Capital Receipts Reserve to deliver replacement boilers and controls at the Community & Wellbeing Centre.**
- (2) **Authorise the purchase of the equipment required now to carry out the works.**

## 27 BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID) BUSINESS PLAN AND BALLOT

The Committee received a report presenting the Epsom Business Improvement District (BID) Business Plan and recommending that the Council votes “Yes” in the forthcoming renewal and alteration ballot for the BID’s continuation. The report also recommended that the Council does not exercise its veto of the BID proposals.

The following matters were considered:

- a) **Council’s veto.** The Committee noted that the Council could only exercise its veto of the BID proposal under certain grounds set out in the Regulations. These related to the cost of the proposals in relation to the benefit that they would provide.
- b) **Administration costs of BID.** The Committee was informed that a levy collection cost of £20,000 per annum had been agreed with the BID Directors, but that the BID Business Plan incorrectly stated the figure as £17,000 per annum. This error would be highlighted to the BID Manager for correction.

Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to:

- (1) **Consider the BID Business Plan as defining the scope and purpose of the BID.**
- (2) **Agree to support the proposed bid and authorise the Chief Executive to vote “yes” in the forthcoming ballot on behalf of the Council.**
- (3) **Determine (commensurate with (2) above), in its capacity as Billing Authority, not to use its right of veto under Section 51(2) of the Local Government Act 2003.**

**28 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS AND CHAIRMAN OF THE SHAREHOLDER SUB-COMMITTEE**

The Committee received a report requesting it to agree the appointment of Members and a Chair to the Shareholder Sub Committee for the 2022-23 Municipal Year.

The following matters were considered:

- a) Arrangements for meetings.** A committee member raised a concern about the arrangements for meetings of the Shareholder Sub-Committee. The Committee noted that the Council had agreed the dates of meetings of the Shareholder Sub-Committee within the Municipal Calendar at its Annual Meeting in May 2022. The Chair noted the committee member's concerns and agreed to discuss them with the member following the meeting.

Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to:

- (1) Appoint Members and a Chair for the Shareholder Sub Committee as required by its Terms of Reference, and set out in paragraph 3.3 of the report, namely:**

- **Councillor Neil Dallen (Chair)**
- **Councillor Hannah Dalton**
- **Councillor Graham Jones**
- **Councillor Colin Keane**
- **Councillor Kate Chinn**

**29 EXTENSION OF INTERIM MONITORING OFFICER APPOINTMENT**

The Committee received a report seeking approval to the extension of the Interim Monitoring Officer arrangement.

The following matter was considered:

- a) Extension of appointment.** The Interim Chief Executive informed the Committee that the 12-month contract for the appointment of the Council's Interim Monitoring Officer was due to expire on the day of the meeting. The Committee was requested to approve an extension for a period of up to 6 months or until a permanent Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer, whichever was sooner. The Committee was informed that officers had trialled a shared legal service over the past year, but it had become apparent that the Council needed to appoint its own Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer.

Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to:



- (1) Approve the extension of the Interim Monitoring Officer for a period of up to 6 months from 1 October 2022 or until the appointment of a permanent Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer, whichever is sooner.**

**30 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Committee resolved to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act (as amended) and that pursuant to paragraph 10 of Part 2 of the said Schedule 12A the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

**31 HORTON CHAPEL**

The decision on this item is recorded in a separate (not for publication) restricted Minute.

*The meeting began at 7.30 pm and ended at 8.13 pm*

COUNCILLOR NEIL DALLEN (CHAIR)

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## **DEVOLUTION, COUNTY DEALS AND THE LEVELLING UP AGENDA**

**Head of Service:** Jackie King, Interim Chief Executive  
**Wards affected:** (All Wards);  
**Urgent Decision?** No  
**If yes, reason urgent decision required:** N/A  
**Appendices (attached):**

### **Summary**

This report sets out the background relating to devolution, County Deals and the Levelling Up agenda currently being pursued by the Government. It also covers the way in which this has been received in Surrey and the implications and opportunities offered by participation in the negotiation of a future County Deal. The report also makes reference to previous initiatives that have involved possible local government reorganisation.

### **Recommendation (s)**

#### **The Committee is asked to:**

- (1) Note the background to the development of local government devolution initiatives over recent years and the opportunities and threats offered by the Government's Levelling Up agenda in the form of a possible County Deal for Surrey.**
- (2) Agree that the working group will continue discussions with Surrey County Council to explore opportunities for the delivery of services and renewal programmes in the Borough that improve the health and well-being of Epsom and Ewell residents, whether as part of a County Deal or not.**

### **1 Reason for Recommendation**

- 1.1 To inform future discussions about local government collaboration, reorganisation, County Deal negotiations and Government levelling up proposals.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 The Government's desire to enable the devolution of certain centralised powers and, in some cases, funding, to local authorities dates back to 2016 when a number of early "Devo Deals" were negotiated with some larger metropolitan authorities and especially in areas which had or would have directly elected Mayors.
- 2.2 At that time all the public authorities in Surrey, and in East and West Sussex formed the 3SC regional partnership in order to develop a Devolution bid. In the event the collective aspiration failed to move beyond the initial stages mainly due to the requirement for a directly elected Mayor.
- 2.3 In July 2020 the Leader of Surrey County Council initiated a bid to create a single County Unitary authority serving the county's 1.2m residents. This was backed by a business case formulated by PWC. In response the Leaders of the Surrey districts and boroughs agreed to oppose the single unitary proposition on the basis of its size, remoteness of service delivery and likely divisiveness. KPMG were instructed to assess the possible case for other unitary models of more than one district/borough authority, but also to look at opportunities for greater collaboration.
- 2.4 In March 2021 the EEBC S&R Committee reported on the outcome of the final KPMG report and favoured greater collaboration rather than the unitary cluster models of Surrey local government.

## **3 Levelling Up and County Deals**

- 3.1 Last year the Government announced the concept of County Deals beyond city regions as part of their emerging "Levelling Up" agenda. This was to be part of a long heralded "Devolution and Covid Recovery" White Paper. In response, in August 2021 Surrey County Council submitted a pilot expression of interest in negotiating a County Deal with the Government. In October 2021 this initial SCC bid was judged to have been unsuccessful but SCC were encouraged to resubmit in a later bidding round.
- 3.2 The White Paper includes a new devolution framework and Levelling Up Advisory Council as part of the Government offering a devolution deal to every part of England that wants one. County geographies and upper tier authorities are seen as the appropriate strategic level to which to devolve functions.

- 3.3 SCC is committed to working with partners in formulating a County Deal for Surrey with “greater powers, freedoms and flexibilities” and in April 2022 the County Council reported on initial ideas that could form the broad basis of a draft County Deal. The County Council reported on the matter again on 25<sup>th</sup> October setting out its continuing aspiration to negotiate a County Deal for Surrey, in partnership with constituent authorities and agencies.

#### **4 A County Deal Working Group for E&EBC**

- 4.1 On 26<sup>th</sup> July 2022 the S&R Committee considered a report on the current position. It agreed to set-up a County Deal Working Group, but also delegated authority to the Interim Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair of the Working Group, to make representations to Surrey County Council and/or other parties in connection with the process for developing a ‘Surrey County Deal’ proposal to government.

#### **5 The Government’s Levelling Up intent**

- 5.1 The intent of the Levelling Up White Paper is to secure better equality of opportunity and outcomes in education, economy, infrastructure, transport and health (and local leadership) with documented improvements by 2030.
- 5.2 There is also of course a widely reported political perspective to favour more deprived areas of the country in the north of the UK and indeed there are specific references to investment “outside London and the south-east”.

#### **6 The 12 national “Missions”**

- 6.1 The White Paper includes 12 Missions or pledges, all of which are set a target to be reached by 2030, these are:
- Increasing pay, employment and productivity in every area of the UK, having globally competitive cities and narrowing the economic gap between regions;
  - Increasing public investment in R&D outside the South-East by at least 40%;
  - Improving public transport across the country to be closer to the London standards;
  - Having nationwide gigabit-capable broadband and 4G coverage, with 5G coverage for the majority of the population;
  - Increasing the number of primary school children achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths;

- Increasing the number of people successfully completing skills training in every region;
- Reducing the gap in life expectancy between regions;
- Improving well-being in every area of the UK and close the gap between regions;
- Increasing pride in place in every area of the UK;
- Giving renters a path to home ownership and reduce the number of non-decent rented by 50%;
- Reducing crime;
- Having a devolution deal for every part of England that wants one.

## **7 The Devolution Framework**

7.1 The White Paper includes three 'levels' as part of a new devolution framework:

- Level 3 – A single institution or County Council with a directly elected mayor (DEM), across a Functional Economic Area ('FEA') or whole county area;
- Level 2 – A single institution or County Council without a DEM, across a FEA or whole county area;
- Level 1 – Local authorities working together across a FEA or whole county area e.g. through a joint committee

## **8 The early Surrey response**

8.1 The County Council has expressed a desire to negotiate a County Deal for Surrey to seek "Greater powers, freedoms and flexibilities", with better outcomes for residents, tackling inequalities so that "no one left behind" and to secure better general value for money.

8.2 At this point the County Council has expressed a strong preference for a Level 2 County Deal with no requirement for a directly elected Mayor (DEM).

8.3 As part of the formulation of a deal for Surrey, the County Council has repeatedly stated its desire to work with partners and indeed this will be a requirement to show strong collaboration and integration as part of bid submission and, later, delivery against agreed targets.

8.4 The County Council also sees scope for the integration of some Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) functions as part of a more co-ordinated arrangement around economic development across the districts and boroughs.



## **9 Prospects**

- 9.1 Over recent months the County Council has started to build strong relationships with DLUHC civil servants and with the recently reappointed Secretary of State, but there are now obvious uncertainties relating to the recent changes at Government level.
- 9.2 The County Council envisages that the mechanism through which it will formulate a draft Deal for Surrey will be the Surrey Delivery Board, the partnership that comprises all the Surrey local government Leaders and Chief Executives.
- 9.3 Recent discussions and workshops involving SCC and the D&Bs show a willingness to engage to explore both how Surrey's interests are best protected on a regional basis but also what measures and powers may be needed (and negotiated) for collaborative service improvements through a County Deal.
- 9.4 Given that the current County Council aspiration is to seek a Level 2 deal (ie) no DEM, then the likelihood of securing significant funding delegation from the government may be limited.

## **10 The potential offered by a County Deal**

- 10.1 It may assist in understanding the types of delegated powers that other authorities have sought as part of their County Deals. These have included:
  - Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) powers transfer to the accountable authority
  - Access to adult education budget
  - Access to bus franchising powers
  - Supplements on Business Rates to fund infrastructure investment
  - Devolution of central government funding pots
  - Funding for pilot employment support schemes
  - Strategic Planning and land supply
  - Control of apprenticeship grants
- 10.2 It is worth noting that the above examples are all for more deprived areas, mostly cover combined authorities/city regions, at equivalent of Level 3 ie require a DEM and these authorities can therefore expect to access significant funding programmes associated with the proposals.

## 11 Opportunities and Threats

- 11.1 The broad concept of devolution through a County Deal is, perhaps, attractive as part of a long-held desire to loosen the controls Whitehall operates over local resourcing and decision making in local government. However, much of the devil lies in the detail and the way in which a negotiation may play out in reality.
- 11.2 There are obvious concerns for councils and partner agencies around Levelling Up as a concept. The principle of switching public and private investment and funding programmes to areas outside London and the south-east presents a very significant threat to councils such as EEBC.
- 11.3 Where additional funds are scarce or non-existent, the only real ability of the government to effect change in a levelling up sense is to favour some areas at the expense of others. It is almost inevitable that the home counties will be adversely affected unless a unified case and intensive lobbying for a County Deal can be pursued.
- 11.4 While the possibility of additional powers, freedoms and flexibilities is potentially attractive, the critical question to be answered is what exactly is currently lacking and what barriers are there to achieving the overall well-being objectives in the 12 Missions in Surrey?
- 11.5 The County Council has asked partner authorities to identify any such constraints so that they might form part of a negotiated County Deal. However, Members will be aware that the Localism Act 2011 introduced a general power of competence which gives all councils the power to do anything an individual can do provided it is not prohibited by other legislation. It may therefore be the case that it is not a lack of powers that constrains action but, yet again, it is limited financial resources that lie at the heart of a council's ability to act in some areas.
- 11.6 There are concerns that without significant additional or devolved funding from government then the "powers freedoms and flexibilities" being sought may only be of limited value at district council level.
- 11.7 A response might include detailed involvement with SCC in shaping a County Deal and, as part of that, seeking a "double devolution" of programme funding from the county level to delivery at district level. In this sense it might be possible to realign current responsibilities (and resources?) in favour of local delivery around agreed priorities.

- 11.8 This was a matter debated by district and borough Leaders and Chief Executives at a workshop held on 21<sup>st</sup> October. There was broad agreement that a more fundamental dialogue with the County Council should underpin any discussions about the content of any County Deal, but also look to the opportunities to realign services between the county and district levels – in favour of the most localised way of tailoring delivery to communities. The Leaders agreed to pursue these discussions over the next few months.

## **12 12. Local Government Reorganisation**

- 12.1 Some of the discussions around the emerging government framework for County Deals and levelling up have referenced whether it may be associated with a wider agenda to revive the possibility of local government reorganisation (LGR) – either at a national or local level.
- 12.2 Currently it appears unlikely that the government will prioritise a wholesale LGR in the foreseeable future. The line remains that, where there are locally generated and consensual proposals among partners, the Secretary of State may be willing to consider the case. There are no likely calls for such proposals in prospect and, as a general point, in a post-pandemic era with significant international instability and UK cost of living concerns, any possibility of centrally promoted LGR is probably receding.
- 12.3 In Surrey, SCC's single County Unitary proposition has been dropped in favour of a County Deal negotiation. The KPMG Recommendations for the districts and boroughs exploring clusters of Unitary councils or 8 areas of collaboration (Waste, Building Control, IT infrastructure, Housing, Revenues and Benefits, Procurement, Economic Development and Leisure Services) has favoured the latter.
- 12.4 In the case of EEBC, there is an agreed Council position (see report to S&R Committee 16.3.21) that seeks collaboration and shared service proposals in an opportunistic and incremental way, where the business case makes sense in terms of effort, affordability and beneficial community impact.
- 12.5 For the immediate future, it is therefore recommended that EEBC resources focus on the huge challenges facing the council and the community it serves rather than engage in debating any reorganisation proposals. However, at the Leaders and CE workshop on 21<sup>st</sup> October, it was agreed that districts and boroughs would re-visit the unitary cluster models and assess the degree to which it may be beneficial to develop collaboration initiatives within those cluster groupings.

## **13 The EEBC County Deal Working Group**

- 13.1 On 30<sup>th</sup> September the Council's County Deal Working Group met for a workshop to consider the central issues and opportunities associated with participation in formulating a County Deal for Surrey in concert with SCC.

- 13.2 All of the issues described in this report were considered and debated in detail. On the basis of the information available to date, the Working Group concluded that EEBC's best interests would be served by linking with the other districts and boroughs to assess the potential of participating in the negotiation of a County Deal for Surrey.
- 13.3 The working Group also considered that there may be potential in seeking dialogue with SCC around the delivery of EEBC priorities that align with SCC priorities – with the emphasis on enabling EEBC to tailor and deliver collective services that are appropriate to E&E residents.
- 13.4 The Working Group agreed to report the context and County Deal opportunities to the S&R Committee to garner wider member endorsement, hence this report.

## **14 Risk Assessment**

### Legal or other duties

- 14.1 Equality Impact Assessment
  - 14.1.1 None for this report
- 14.2 Crime & Disorder
  - 14.2.1 None for this report
- 14.3 Safeguarding
  - 14.3.1 None for this report
- 14.4 Dependencies
  - 14.4.1 None for this report
- 14.5 Other
  - 14.5.1 While specific impacts of a final devolution deal are not known at this stage and will be subject to the outcome of negotiations with government on a devolution deal, there will likely be local impacts for district and borough partners. Active engagement with districts and borough partners through the Surrey Delivery Board and Surrey Chief Executives group will be maintained during the development of devolution proposals.

## 15 Financial Implications

- 15.1 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** There are no immediate financial implications arising from the contents of this report. However, the budgetary impact of any specific proposals arising from any service collaboration or County Deal would have to be assessed through the normal decision-making process.

## 16 Legal Implications

- 16.1 **Legal Officer's comments:** There are no immediate legal implications arising from the contents of this report.

## 17 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

- 17.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:

- Effective Council
- Green and Vibrant
- Cultural and Creative
- Opportunity and Prosperity
- Safe and Well
- Smart and Connected

- 17.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is not included within the current Service Delivery Plan.

- 17.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** None for this report

- 17.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** None for this report

- 17.5 **Partnerships:** Surrey County Council, Other Surrey District and Borough Councils

## 18 Background papers

- 18.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

### **Previous reports:**

- [16 March 2021 S&R Committee report on the outcome of the final KPMG report](#)
- [26<sup>th</sup> July 2022 S&R Committee report on the county Deal position. Delegation of responsibility to progress County Deal work, Agreed to set-up a County Deal Working Group](#)

- SCC Cabinet reports 26 [April 2022](#) and [25 October 2022](#) – County Deal principles.

## POLLING DISTRICT AND PLACES REVIEW 2022

<b>Head of Service:</b>	Andrew Bircher, Head of Policy and Corporate Resources
<b>Wards affected:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Urgent Decision?(yes/no)</b>	No
<b>If yes, reason urgent decision required:</b>	
<b>Appendices (attached):</b>	<b>Appendix 1:</b> Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places & Polling Stations: Consultation – September 2022 <b>Appendix 2:</b> Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places & Polling Stations: Consultation Responses - October 2022 <b>(to follow)</b>

### Summary

This report sets out the outcome of the consultation process on Polling Places and Districts and makes recommendations for proposed changes.

### Recommendation (s)

**The Committee is asked to recommend to Council:**

- (1) Agree the location of the polling places and districts as set out in Appendix 1 for a five-year period from 1st January 2023, or until it is superseded by any subsequent review of any polling place or district; and**
- (2) Delegate to the Chief Executive in their capacity as the Council's Returning Officer any ongoing review or change of polling places during this period, to ensure that polling arrangements in the Borough remain fit for purpose for each election called.**

### 1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 Following the completion of the Electoral Review of the Borough by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, the Council is required to undertake a review of polling districts and places.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 Section 17 (2) of the Electoral and Registration Act 2013 states that a review of polling districts and places should have been completed between 1st October 2013 and 31st January 2015 inclusive, and also mandates a further review to be conducted in every five-year period subsequent to that. The Council completed its last such review in December 2019.
- 2.2 The Council is responsible for undertaking each review to provide a sufficient number of polling districts and polling places for elections.
- 2.3 The Council's Chief Executive, as Returning Officer for Epsom & Ewell Borough Council, is responsible for undertaking the reviews. The Returning Officer is also responsible for deciding how many polling stations are required for each polling place and for allocating electors to those polling stations as they consider appropriate.
- 2.4 At least one polling place must be identified for each polling district. Polling places have polling stations located within them; so, for example, a church building may be a polling place, with the room or hall where voting takes place comprising the actual polling station.
- 2.5 There are a number of factors that need to be considered when reviewing existing polling places or when assessing new polling places. In practice, the designation of polling places is very much dependent on the availability of suitable premises that can be used as polling places.
- 2.6 The current review cannot propose changes to Ward, Borough or Constituency boundaries, which are the responsibility of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE).
- 2.7 This review has been undertaken following the recently completed boundary review by the LGBCE. If agreed, the polling districts and polling places proposed will be confirmed with effect from 1st January 2023, and will be used for the Borough Council elections on 4th May 2023, or for any election called subsequent to 1st January 2023.

## **3 Council Motion on use of Schools as Polling Places**

- 3.1 At its meeting on 23 July 2019, Council passed the following Motion:  
  
"This Council agrees that it will no longer use any schools that, in order to act as a polling station, would have to close for the day. It will provide polling districts which it has been accustomed to using such schools with alternative polling stations as near as possible to that polling district".
- 3.2 It is important to note that the legislation (Representation of the People Act 1983, Schedule A1) sets out the requirements for polling place reviews. This requires Local Authorities to comply with the access requirements. As part of the review, they must:



- Seek to ensure that all electors in a constituency in the local authority area have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.
- Seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practical every polling place for which it is responsible is accessible to electors who are disabled.

3.3 In the event these tests are not met, an elector has a right of representation (i.e. appeal). The two appeal grounds are:

- The local authority has failed to meet the reasonable requirements of the electors in the constituency
- The local authority has failed to take sufficient account of accessibility to disabled persons of the polling station/ polling stations within a polling place.

3.4 It is therefore clear, that a polling place is determined with the elector as the primary interest, no other considerations form part of the legislative requirements.

#### **4 Current Arrangements**

4.1 The Borough is divided into 13 electoral wards:

4.1.1 Two are made of one polling district and have one polling place in each (Auriol, Ruxley);

4.1.2 Seven are made of two polling districts with two polling places in each Ward (Cuddington, Ewell Court, West Ewell, Court, Stoneleigh, Nonsuch, College);

4.1.3 Four are made up of three polling districts with three polling places in each Ward (Stamford, Ewell, Town, Woodcote)

#### **5 New/proposed Arrangements following LGBCE Review**

5.1 The Borough will consist of 14 electoral wards.

5.2 A new ward to be named Horton will be created from parts of Ruxley, Court and Stamford wards.

5.3 Two wards are renamed - Ewell will become Ewell Village and Woodcote will become Woodcote & Langley Vale.

5.4 Of the 14 Wards:

5.4.1 Five are made of one polling district and have one polling place in each Ward (Auriol, Ruxley, Stoneleigh, Ewell Village & Horton)

5.4.2 Seven are made of two polling districts with two polling places in each Ward (Cuddington, Ewell Court, West Ewell, Court, Stamford, Nonsuch & College);

5.4.3 Two are made up of three polling districts with three polling places in each Ward (Town & Woodcote & Langley Vale)

## 6 Consultation Exercise

6.1 The consultation in respect of the Polling Districts and Places Review was carried out for five weeks between 12 September and 17 October 2022, a copy of the consultation document is attached at Appendix 1. The review was conducted in accordance with the Electoral Commission's guidance on conducting such reviews.

6.2 To ensure a wide circulation of the consultation, it was made available on the Council's website, communicated via social media and a number of consultees were directly informed as detailed on page 5 and 6 of Appendix 1. All venues including the affected schools (i.e. those allocated as Polling Places) were contacted directly to advise of the review and to enable them to comment on the proposals.

6.3 During the consultation period a number of representations were received, and the breakdown for all the representations is contained at Appendix 2. In essence, the representations were made up as follows:

Ward	Total Number Received
Cuddington	2
Auriol	1
Ewell Court	2
Ruxley	2
West Ewell	1
Court	1
Stamford	1
Stoneleigh	1
Nonsuch	2
Ewell Village	1
Town	1
College	3
Woodcote & Langley Vale	1
Horton	2

## 7 Consultation Responses

The representations and recommendations are as follows:

**7.1 Cuddington Ward**

7.1.1 Two representations were received – one agreeing with proposals and one confirming a venues suitability.

7.1.2 Recommendation: Polling district boundary be adjusted and no change to polling places, as proposed by the review documentation (Appendix 1).

**7.2 Auriol Ward**

7.2.1 One representation was received, agreeing with proposals.

7.2.2 Recommendation: Ward to remain as single polling district and no change to polling place, as proposed by the review documentation (Appendix 1).

**7.3 Ewell Court Ward**

7.3.1 Two representations were received – one agreeing with proposals and one venue confirming suitability.

7.3.2 Recommendation: Ward to remain as two polling districts and no change to polling places, as proposed by the review documentation (Appendix 1).

**7.4 Ruxley Ward**

7.4.1 Two representations were received. One representation agreeing with proposals, the other suggested that the Cox Lane Centre be used instead of Epsom & Ewell High School which is currently a double polling place. Epsom and Ewell High School was notified directly about the review but did not submit a representation.

7.4.2 A site visit was made by Officers to the Cox Lane Centre and although the building is of a good size, there are concerns that voters not living in the immediate area will have difficulty locating the venue which is on the edge of the borough boundary at the far end of Cox Lane. The current polling place at Epsom and Ewell High School is highly visible being on a main road and a bus route.

7.4.3 An important criteria in designating a polling place is location, so that voters can easily find and get to their polling station whether they are on foot or in a vehicle.

7.4.4 There are concerns that the increased distance to get to the polling station will deter people from voting. This Ward already has a low turnout of around 27% at local elections.

- 7.4.5 There are 2 bus services in the area, the E5 and the 418. The E5 has a stop in Cox Lane but only operates on an hourly basis between 6.00am to 6.30pm. The 418 does not stop in Cox Lane but does stop directly outside the current polling place at the Epsom and Ewell High School and operates throughout and beyond polling hours.
- 7.4.6 It should also be noted that if the polling place is moved to Cox Lane, voters needing to travel by vehicle from roads on the west side of the ward will have further to travel past the current polling place, as there is no direct road access to Cox Lane other than via Ruxley Lane (Amis Avenue is no longer a through road to traffic).
- 7.4.7 The Cox Lane Centre is currently unused and a report regarding it is included elsewhere on this agenda. It may not be ready for use before May 2023. The previous use of the Centre was as an activity centre and 50% of the main hall still contains non-moveable climbing equipment although that is expected to be removed by the previous leaseholder. Depending on what the Centre is next to be used for this may also limit the possibility of its use as a polling station.
- 7.4.8 Epsom and Ewell High School is able to schedule an inset day on polling day and notification of scheduled elections dates is provided well in advance so it can facilitate this option.
- 7.4.9 It should also be noted that voters from Clarendon Park Estate were previously in Ruxley Ward and that those voting in person, due to the distance to the polling station, were more likely to have driven to it. However, Clarendon Park has now been removed from Ruxley Ward into Horton Ward and will be voting at a different polling place (The Horton Arts Centre).
- 7.4.10 Officers have also made enquiries regarding The Edge Centre in Rowden Road. However, this Centre is currently used by Surrey County Council for schooling for excluded pupils which would mean that they would need to make alternative arrangements if the venue was used. The location is, as per its name, on the edge of the borough and even further to walk for the majority of voters.
- 7.4.11 Due to the lack of suitable alternative locations, it is recommended that the polling place is retained at Epsom and Ewell High School and that the Council maintains its search for an alternative location.
- 7.4.12 Recommendation: Ward to remain as single polling district and no change to polling place, as proposed by the review documentation (Appendix 1).

## **7.5 West Ewell Ward**

- 7.5.1 One representation was received, agreeing with proposals.

- 7.5.2 Recommendation: Ward to remain as two polling districts and no change to polling places, as proposed by the review documentation (Appendix 1).

## **7.6 Court Ward**

- 7.6.1 One representation was received with concerns as to the voters previously in Town Ward (KC) being moved into polling district FB rather than polling district FA.
- 7.6.2 The proposal to move voters to polling district FB is based on the size of the available polling venues in the ward and the expected increase in electorate requiring creation of an extra polling station.
- 7.6.3 Until 2019, Southfields School was a double polling station in polling district FA. This was not popular with parents or the school. An outcome of the 2019 review was to divide FA into two, and the creation of polling district FC. This enabled the school to stay open on polling day as it only needed to house a single polling station and an alternative room was able to be used.
- 7.6.4 Voters in the new polling district FA vote at the Bowling Pavilion at the Court Recreation Ground. However, the Pavilion is not large enough to be set up as a double station. For this reason, voters moving from polling district KC have been moved into polling district FB, and will vote at the Community & Wellbeing Centre which is large enough to house a double polling station.
- 7.6.5 It is noted that the voters moving from KC into FB are moving into a different County electoral division than existing but as Surrey County Council are soon to start an electoral review of the County electoral divisions, it is anticipated that the borough ward/polling district changes will be taken into consideration in the review.
- 7.6.6 Recommendation: That the Ward is reverted back into two polling districts FA and FB. Polling district FC being renamed as FA, with no change to polling places, as proposed by the review documentation (Appendix 1).

## **7.7 Stamford Ward**

- 7.7.1 Two representations were received, both agreeing with proposals.
- 7.7.2 Recommendation: Polling district boundary be adjusted to merge polling districts GA and GB and rename as GA. Renaming of polling district GC to GB. No change to polling places, as proposed by the review documentation (Appendix 1).

## **7.8 Stoneleigh Ward**

- 7.8.1 One representation was received, agreeing with proposals.

- 7.8.2 Recommendation: Ward to be merged into single polling district, renamed H and no change to polling place, as proposed by the review documentation (Appendix 1).

**7.9 Nonsuch Ward**

- 7.9.1 Two representations were received, one agreeing with proposals and one supporting the non-use of Wallace Fields School.

- 7.9.2 Recommendation: Polling district boundary be adjusted and no change to polling places, as proposed by the review documentation (Appendix 1).

**7.10 Ewell Village Ward**

- 7.10.1 One representation was received, agreeing with proposals.

- 7.10.2 Recommendation: Ward to be merged into single polling district, renamed J and no change to polling place, as proposed by the review documentation (Appendix 1).

**7.11 Town Ward**

- 7.11.1 One representation was received expressing 2 concerns. One was regarding the voters previously in Stamford Ward GA polling district being moved into KC polling district rather than into KB polling district. And the other was that voters currently in Town Ward polling district KA were being moved into polling district KC.

- 7.11.2 The reasoning behind these proposals is as stated in the review, namely the size of the electorate and the polling places for both KA, KB and KC.

- 7.11.3 Recommendation: Polling district boundaries be adjusted, ward to remain as three polling districts and no change to polling places, as proposed by the review documentation (Appendix 1).

**7.12 College Ward**

- 7.12.1 Three representations were received, one agreeing with proposals and two agreeing with venues for polling places.

7.12.2 Pages 59 and 60 of the consultation document provide mapping of the proposed polling district areas, and these include all properties moved into the Ward as a result of the recent LGBCE Electoral Review. Following completion of the consultation it has been identified that properties in St Martins Close, Wimbourne Close, St Andrews and College Road (moved from Town Ward) are not specifically listed on page 58 of the consultation document. However, the mapping on pages 59 and 60 is correct and includes the properties. The omission from page 58 does not create any concerns over the validity of the consultation, as the transfer of properties from Town Ward was not under consideration, it has already been agreed in the LGBCE's review.

7.12.3 Recommendation: Ward to remain as two polling districts and no change to polling places, as proposed by the review documentation (Appendix 1).

### **7.13 Woodcote and Langley Vale Ward**

7.13.1 One representation was received, agreeing with proposals and noting the known concerns regarding accessibility to Langley Vale Hall in MC polling district.

7.13.2 Recommendation: Ward to remain as three polling districts and no change to polling places as per the review, as proposed by the review documentation (Appendix 1).

### **7.14 Horton Ward**

7.14.1 This is the new ward that was created in the LGBCE review, from parts of Ruxley, Court and Stamford Wards.

7.14.2 Two representations were received. One representation agreed with the proposals. The other representation suggested that the proposed polling place at The Horton Arts Centre (Horton Chapel as was) would be too far for voters in Clarendon, Noble and parts of Manor Park to walk to and that alternative site for these voters should be sourced and/or a temporary units used.

7.14.3 The Horton Arts Centre is considered to be suitable as it is in the middle of the 4 estates that will vote there and is large enough to contain a double polling station. Previously voters in Clarendon Park were in Ruxley ward and had to travel to Epsom & Ewell High School to vote which is considerably further away than the new proposed polling place. Voters in Noble and Manor Park were previously in Stamford Ward and voted at Christ Church Hall which is a similar distance to the proposed polling place.

7.14.4 Recommendation: The ward to be a single polling district and use of the Horton Arts Centre as the polling place, as proposed by the review documentation (Appendix 1).

## **8 Delegated Authority for the Chief Executive:**

8.1 Delegated authority is sought to enable the Chief Executive in their capacity as the Council's Returning Officer to make changes to polling places if necessary to ensure that polling arrangements in the Borough remain fit for purpose for each election called. This delegation is sought for a five-year period from 1st January 2023, or until it is superseded by any subsequent review of any polling place or district and would be utilised in circumstances in which there was insufficient time to present a report to Council prior to an election being held, for example: if a Polling place became inaccessible at short notice.

## **9 Risk Assessment**

Legal or other duties

### **9.1 Equality Impact Assessment**

9.1.1 The Council has due regard to its equality duties under Section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010. In addition, it is a legal requirement of the Returning Officer that, in so far as is reasonable and practical, every polling place is accessible to electors with disabilities. This has been taken fully into account during this review process.

9.1.2 Appropriate equipment (such as ramps, visual enhancement aids etc.) will continue to be provided at all polling stations, and all polling staff will continue to be fully trained to provide support and facilities for voters with disabilities.

### **9.2 Crime & Disorder**

9.2.1 None.

### **9.3 Safeguarding**

9.3.1 Safeguarding issues are considered for all potential polling places prior to their recommendation to the Council, and prior to every election. Any issues identified are appropriately managed in accordance with Council policies and in agreement with the management of the premises.

### **9.4 Dependencies**

9.4.1 None.

### **9.5 Other**



9.5.1 None.

## 10 Financial Implications

- 10.1 The cost of venue hire for national elections and referenda is met by central Government. Costs for local elections are covered by the council's own allocated budgets.
- 10.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** The council has budgeted £80,000 (based on past election experience) to cover the cost of the local election in 2023/24.

## 11 Legal Implications

- 11.1 This review has been undertaken in accordance with Section 18C of Representation of the People Act 1983 (as amended by Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006), which requires such a review to be undertaken every five years. A review requires all of the steps set out in Schedule A1 of Representation of the People Act 1983 to be met, as demonstrated by this report and its appendices.
- 11.2 In addition, due consideration has been given to the requirements of the Electoral and Registration Act 2013 in relation to the timing of this review.
- 11.3 The regulations that govern the use of schools falls under rule 22, Schedule 1 of the Representation of the People Act 1983. There is a duty imposed on schools who are either maintained or assisted in any way by money provided by Parliament, to be used free of charge (with the exception of certain expenses) as polling places.
- 11.4 **Legal Officer's comments:** Section 18C (3) of Representation of the People Act 1983 permits a Council to carry out a review of some or all of its polling districts or polling places in its area outside the compulsory review periods.

## 12 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

- 12.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged: Effective Council.
- 12.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is included within the current Service Delivery Plan.
- 12.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** The accessibility of polling places by foot, bicycle and public transport has been considered in the process of their recommendation to the Council.
- 12.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** None
- 12.5 **Partnerships:** None

### 13 Background papers

13.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

**Previous reports:**

- [Report to Council 23 July 2019, Notices of Motions, Polling Stations](#)

**Other papers:**

- [Local Government Boundary Commission for England: Electoral Review of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council.](#)
- Electoral Commission: Reviews of Polling Districts, Polling Places And Polling Stations <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/electoral-administrator/returning-officer/polling-place-reviews>



## **Public Consultation**

### **Polling District and Polling Places Review**

**Epsom & Ewell Borough Council**

**September 2022**

Jacqueline King - Acting Returning Officer  
Epsom & Ewell Borough Council  
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## **Background**

The Electoral Administration Act 2006 (Section 16) introduced a number of changes to the Representation of the People Act 1983 in respect of the way in which reviews of polling districts and polling places must be undertaken.

## **First Review**

The Act specified how frequently reviews should be undertaken and made it a requirement that relevant authorities (i.e. this Council) carry out a review every four years. The Council was required to conclude the first review by 31 December 2007. The review was duly undertaken in September 2007 and the outcome of the review reported to Council in December of that year.

## **Subsequent Reviews**

Notwithstanding the legislation, the Council regularly reviews its polling places but duly completed a second statutory review in December 2011.

The Electoral Registration Act 2013 introduced a change to the timing of compulsory reviews and the next compulsory review that had to be held between 1 October 2013 and 31 January 2015 was completed in December 2014. The next review had a requirement to be held and completed between 1 October 2018 and 31 January 2020 and this was done and completed in December 2019

## **Definition of a Parliamentary Constituency, a Ward, Polling District, Polling Place and Polling Station**

To assist any interested party who may wish to make representations, the following definitions may be helpful:

### **a) Parliamentary Constituency**

This is an area designated by the Boundary Commission which is represented by a Member of Parliament (MP) in the House of Commons. This cannot be changed by the review – it is the division of the constituency into polling districts and places that is under review.

### **b) Wards**

The Borough is divided into areas known as “Wards” which are represented by Borough Councillors.

### **c) Polling Districts**

A polling district is the area created by the division of a Ward into smaller parts, within which a polling place can be determined which is most suitable for the electors.

**d) Polling Places**

A polling place is the building or area in which the number of polling stations will be selected by the Acting Returning Officer.

**e) Polling Station**

A polling station is the room or area in which voting takes place. This must be located within the polling place that has been designated for the particular polling district. The number of polling stations to be accommodated within a polling place is the decision of the Acting Returning Officer.

**Timetable for the Review**

The Council is required to publish notice of the holding of a review. This has been carried out by way of notices posted outside the Town Hall, Epsom and on the Council's website. The timetable for the review is set out below:

Publication of notice	12 September 2022
Publication of consultation document	12 September 2022
Closing date for representations	5pm, 17 October 2022
Consideration of all representations	18 – 21 October 2022
Report to Strategy and Resources Committee	15 November 2022
New Register 2023 published	1 December 2022
Report to Full Council	6 December 2022
Publication of notice of amendments to electoral register and intention to publish revised version of register (If necessary)	20 December 2022
Publication of revised version of register (if necessary)	3 January 2023

**Criteria for Polling Places and Polling Districts**

The Electoral Commission has set out guidance to assist in assessing the current arrangements and any proposals for change.

As part of the assessment of the suitability of polling district boundaries, the following should be considered:

- Are the boundaries well defined? For example. Do they follow the natural boundaries of the areas? If not, is it clear which properties belong in the polling district?
- Are there suitable transport links within the polling district, and how do they relate to the areas of the district that are most highly populated? Are there any obstacles to voters crossing the current polling district and reaching the polling place e.g. steep hills, impassable major roads, railway lines, rivers?

There are also a number of factors that must be considered when reviewing existing polling places or assessing new polling places, including:

- The location: is it reasonably accessible within the polling district? Does it avoid barriers for the voter such as steep hills, major roads, rivers, etc.? Are there any convenient transport links?
- Size: can the polling place accommodate more than one polling station if required? If multiple polling stations are required, is the polling place ample enough to accommodate all voters going into and out of the polling stations, even where there is a high turnout?
- Suitability: is the building readily available in the event of any unscheduled elections? Is there any possibility that the building may be demolished as part of a new development? Is the building accessible to all those entitled to attend the polling place?

The Electoral Commission recognises that the choice of polling place will often be a balance between the quality of the building in terms of access and facilities and the proximity of the building to the electors it is intended to serve and that there may be circumstances, as in the case of College Ward, where the polling place might fall wholly or partly outside the polling district because suitable alternatives are not available in the relevant Ward.

Although it is Council policy to avoid the use of schools wherever possible, there may be locations where there are no other suitable premises in the area. If a school is used, the polling station(s) should be located within the school grounds to enable the school to remain open with suitable separation of pupils from voters to cause minimal disruption to the school day. Any decision to close any school ultimately remains with the school itself.

There are occasions where a school may be the only option available, and it may need to close.

For the purposes of elections, the Acting Returning Officer is entitled to use free of charge, subject to covering the cost of heating, lighting and caretaking charges, schools maintained or assisted by a local authority as well as those schools that receive grants made up of monies provided by Parliament.

In conducting this review, it is proposed that, in order to minimise the risk of queues at a polling place, as far as possible, around 1500 and no more than 2000 voters should be assigned to each polling station as recommended by the Electoral Commission.

It should be noted that the number of postal voters in each polling district is a relevant consideration in this regard. In the event of a combined and/or Parliamentary Election, given more complex arrangements and higher voter turnout, it may be necessary to review these numbers. In all circumstances, consideration is given to whether a polling place is capable of accommodating more than one polling station, if necessary.

Current practice, to avoid confusion and delays at polling stations and the Count, is not to locate polling stations from more than one Ward in the same building and this will be taken into consideration when considering any proposals.

Polling station staff are encouraged to make comments and observations regarding the suitability of polling places to which they are allocated, as are Polling Station Inspectors who visited all polling stations during last elections held in May 2021. Comments made have been taken into account when conducting this review.

### **The Role of the Acting Returning Officer**

Whilst it is for the Council to decide on the creation of polling districts and location of polling places, it is for the Acting Returning Officer to decide how many polling stations are required for each polling place and must allocate electors to the polling stations in such manner as they think most conducive to the smooth running of polling day.

The Council is required to consult the Returning Officer for every Parliamentary Constituency that is wholly or partly within its area. The whole of the Borough falls within the Parliamentary Constituency of Epsom and Ewell there are no other Constituencies wholly or partly within its area.

Therefore, the Council needs only to consult the Acting Returning Officer for Epsom and Ewell as part of the review and the Acting Returning Officer must comment during any review on both the existing polling districts and the polling stations and any proposed changes.

### **Other representations**

Any elector in the Constituency may make representations on the designation of polling districts or places.

The Council is also required to seek representations from those with an expertise in relation to access to premises and facilities for disabled people. Such persons must also be given the opportunity to comment on the representations made by the Acting Returning Officer (which are contained in this consultation document).

### **Summary of Consultees**

Set out below is a list of persons specifically notified about the review:

- The Member of Parliament for Epsom and Ewell, Chris Grayling
- Surrey Coalition of Disabled People ([www.surreycoalition.org.uk](http://www.surreycoalition.org.uk))
- All Epsom and Ewell Borough Councillors
- All Surrey County Councillors representing divisions within the Epsom area
- Election agents who acted at the 2021 County Council elections
- Candidates who stood in the 2021 County Council elections
- Registered political parties who regularly field candidates in local and parliamentary elections in the Borough



**Consultees cont.**

- Venues used as polling places

**Completion of the review**

After considering all of the representations, a report will be presented to the Strategy and Resources Committee. It is anticipated that this will be at its meeting on 15 November 2022. The Strategy and Resources Committee will consider the report and make recommendations as it thinks appropriate to Full Council on 6 December 2022 at which the final decisions will be made.

The Council is required to give reasons for its decisions in respect of the designation of both polling districts and polling places and these will be published, together with the following information, on the Council's website and made available, on request, at the Town Hall, Epsom:

- all correspondence sent to the Acting Returning Officer in connection with the review
- all correspondence sent to any person who the Council thinks has particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability
- all representations made by any person in connection with the review
- the minutes of any meetings held by the Council where details of the review have been considered
- details of the actual designations of polling districts and polling places agreed as a result of the review

**Challenging the Review**

Although the Electoral Commission has no initial role in the review process itself, it does have an important role in respect of considering representations and observations made that a Council has failed to conduct a proper review on one of two grounds:

- that the Council has failed to meet the reasonable requirements of the electors in the constituency, or a body of them (i.e. the reasonable requirements of a particular area of the authority have not been satisfactorily met)

or

- that the Council has failed to take sufficient account of the accessibility to disabled persons of polling stations within a designated polling place.

Representations based on any other grounds will not be considered by the Commission.

All representations made to the Commission must be in writing either by post, or email and should include the location and any other relevant information, stating specifically why it is inaccessible or does not meet the reasonable requirements of the electors.

### **Who may make a representation to the Electoral Commission?**

Section 18D (1) of the Representation of the People Act 1983, sets out who may make representations to the Electoral Commission namely;

- not less than thirty registered electors in the constituency (although electors registered anonymously cannot make a representation)
- a person (except the Acting Returning Officer) who made representations to the council when the review was being undertaken
- any person who is not an elector within the constituency but who the Electoral Commission feels has sufficient interest in the accessibility of disabled persons in the areas or has particular expertise in relation to the access to premises or facilities of disabled persons

The Acting Returning Officer is entitled to make observations on any representations made to the Commission.

### **What will the Electoral Commission do?**

The Electoral Commission is required to consider any representations and observations and may direct the relevant council to make any alterations it sees necessary to the polling places designated by the review. Should a Council fail to make the alterations within two months of the direction being given, the Commission may make the alterations itself.

### **Proposals**

Set out in Appendix A are details of current and proposed polling districts and polling places for each of the Wards within the Borough of Epsom and Ewell.

Appendix B provides details of the changes that were made by the Local Government Boundary Commission in their recent review. These changes have been approved in principle and the Order seeking to implement the Commission's final recommendations was laid before Parliament on 7 July 2022. The Order to confirm the recommendations is expected to be made in late October/early November.

Appendix C contains a map and a breakdown for each polling place with the details of any proposed changes and the comments of the Acting Returning Officer.

The electorate, broken down into polling districts, is based on the electorate as at 1 September 2022.

Any significant comments from polling station staff or polling station inspectors regarding the condition or accessibility of currently used polling places are included where appropriate.

A full review of polling places was last conducted in 2019 and this review is available on the Council's website.

There are no known plans which would affect the availability of those Council-owned premises currently used as polling places. The Council has had no indication that private venues currently used, will not be available in future, apart from as indicated in Appendix C.

## **Representations**

Any persons wishing to make comments or representations regarding the proposals may do so. Any representations you wish to make should be **received by close of business 5pm on 17 October 2022**

All representations must be made in writing either by post or email.

Representations by post should be sent to:

Electoral Services (Polling District/Place Review)  
Epsom and Ewell Borough Council  
The Town Hall  
The Parade  
Epsom  
Surrey  
KT18 5BY

Representations by email should be sent to:

[electoralservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk](mailto:electoralservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk)

For any queries, please telephone 01372 732000 and ask to speak to Electoral Services.

All representations will be published on the Council's website after the closing date for representations.

The final decision will be taken by Full Council at its meeting on 6 December 2022 and, if necessary, a notice of any alterations to the register will be published on the Council's website no later than 20 December 2022.

Any new polling districts and polling places will become effective at all elections held after 3 January 2023.

## Appendix A

### Epsom & Ewell Borough Council

#### Schedule of Current and Proposed Polling Districts and Polling Stations

WARD	CURRENT POLLING DISTRICT	CURRENT POLLING PLACE	PROPOSED POLLING DISTRICT	PROPOSED POLLING PLACE
CUDDINGTON	AA	Rowe Hall, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cuddington Scout HQ, Salisbury Road, Worcester Park KT4 7LP	AA	No change
	AB	St Mary's Church Hall, The Avenue, Worcester Park KT4 7HL	AB	No change
AURIOL	B	Stoneleigh Methodist Church Centre, Stoneleigh Crescent, Ewell KT19 0RT	B	No change
EWELL COURT	CA	Ruxley Church, Ruxley Lane, West Ewell KT19 0JG	CA	No change
	CB	Ewell Court House, Ewell Court Avenue, Ewell KT19 0EB	CB	No change
RUXLEY	D	Epsom & Ewell High School, Ruxley Lane, West Ewell KT19 9JW	D	No change
WEST EWELL	EA	West Ewell Evangelical Church, 23 Lansdowne Road, West Ewell KT19 9QJ	EA	No change
	EB	All Saints Church & Community Centre, Fulford Road, West Ewell KT19 9QY	EB	No change

WARD	CURRENT POLLING DISTRICT	CURRENT POLLING PLACE	PROPOSED POLLING DISTRICT	PROPOSED POLLING PLACE
<b>COURT</b>	FA	Southfield Park Primary School, Long Grove Road, Epsom KT19 8TF	Not applicable	No longer required
	FB	Community & Wellbeing Centre (Main Hall) Sefton Road, Epsom KT19 9HG	FB	No change
	FC	Bowling Pavilion, Court Recreation Ground, Pound Lane, Epsom KT19 8SB	FA	No change
<b>STAMFORD</b>	GA	The Fellowship Hall, West Hill, Epsom KT19 8JD	GA	No longer required
	GB	The Church Hall, Christ Church, Christ Church Road, Epsom KT19 8NE	GA	No change
	GC	The Wells Social Centre, Spa Drive, Epsom KT18 7LR	GB	No change
<b>STONELEIGH</b>	HA	Stoneleigh Baptist Church Hall, The Glade, Stoneleigh KT17 2HL	H	No change
	HB	Stoneleigh Baptist Church Hall, The Glade, Stoneleigh KT17 2HL	H	No change
<b>NONSUCH</b>	IA	St Paul's Church Centre, Northey Avenue, Cheam SM2 7HS	IA	No change
	IB	NESCOT, Reigate Road, Ewell KT17 3DS	IB	No change

WARD	CURRENT POLLING DISTRICT	CURRENT POLLING PLACE	PROPOSED POLLING DISTRICT	PROPOSED POLLING PLACE
<b>EWELL *</b>	JA	Rose Room, Bourne Hall, Spring Street, Ewell KT17 1UF	J	No change
	JB	Glyn School (Staff Room), The Kingsway, Ewell KT17 1NB	J	No longer required
	JC	Defoe Court, 87 East Street, Epsom KT17 1AQ	Not applicable	No longer required
<b>TOWN</b>	KA	Defoe Court, 87 East Street, Epsom KT17 1AQ	KA	No change
	KB	Epsom Playhouse, Ashley Avenue, Epsom KT18 5AL	KB	No change
	KC	St. Barnabas Church, Temple Road, Epsom KT19 8TU	KC	No change
<b>COLLEGE</b>	LA	The Pavilion, Alexandra Recreation Ground, Alexandra Road, Epsom KT17 4BU	LA	No change
	LB	The Church House, Church Street, Epsom KT17 4PX	LB	No change

WARD	CURRENT POLLING DISTRICT	CURRENT POLLING PLACE	PROPOSED POLLING DISTRICT	PROPOSED POLLING PLACE
<b>WOODCOTE*</b>	MA	Grace Baptist Church, 32 Dorking Road, Epsom KT18 7NH	MA	No change
	MB	St Martin's C of E Junior School, Ashley Road, Epsom KT18 7AD	MB	No change
	MC	Langley Vale Village Hall, Rosebery Road, Epsom KT18 6AF	MC	No change
<b>HORTON</b>	Not applicable	Not applicable – New Ward	N	The Horton Arts Centre, Haven Way, Epsom KT19 8NP

\* Wards renamed by the Local Boundary Commission Review

Ewell renamed as Ewell Village

Woodcote renamed as Woodcote and Langley Vale

Total	Currently	Proposed
Number of Polling Places	27	25
Number of Polling Stations	38	36

## **Appendix B**

### **Epsom & Ewell Borough Council**

#### **Ward Changes from the Local Boundary Commission Review**

##### **Cuddington, Auriol & Ewell Court**

The recent review made these changes to the Cuddington, Auriol & Ewell Court ward boundaries.

Properties currently in Ewell Court ward on the north side of Kingston Road have been split between Cuddington and Auriol wards.

- The Grange, Kingston Road (370-434 even), Plantagenet Close, Salisbury Road, (1-55 odd & 4-50 even) and The Warren will move to Cuddington ward (AB)
- Bannow Close, Chestnut Avenue, Kingston Road (332-368 even), Sterry Drive and Timbercroft will move to Auriol ward (B)

The review has also moved from Auriol to Cuddington ward

- Salisbury Road (68-72 even) which will move to Cuddington (AB)
- Barn Elms Close will move to Cuddington ward (AA)
- Cuddington Avenue (49-94 even) and Vale Road (Flat 1-6, 156 only) (AA)

##### **Ruxley & West Ewell**

The review made these changes to Ruxley and West Ewell ward boundaries.

Properties currently in Ruxley ward

- Chessington Close, Chessington Road (374-478A even), Hemmings Mead, Larch Crescent, Nightingale Drive, Oak Tree Close, Poplar Crescent, Poplar Farm Close will move to West Ewell ward (EA)
- New development at former Epsom & Ewell High School Playing Fields will move to West Ewell ward (EA)
- All properties on what is known as Clarendon Park will move to the new created ward to be known as Horton (N)
- Horton Lane (Farmfield 3 flats) will move to the new created ward to be known as Horton (N)



**Ruxley & West Ewell (cont.)**

Properties currently in West Ewell ward

- Brook Close, Dee Way, Gibraltar Crescent and Marsh Avenue will move to Court ward (FB)

**Court & Stamford**

The review made these changes to Court and Stamford ward boundaries.

Properties currently in Court ward

- All properties on what is known as Livingstone Park will move to the new created ward to be known as Horton (N)
- Brettgrave, Briane Road, Chantilly Way, Hook Road (260-330 even & 291-337b odd and Horton Farm House), Long Grove Road, Marston, Parkhurst will move to the new created ward to be known as Horton (N)
- Nos 31-33 (odd) Pound Lane and 72-74 (even) Temple Road will move to Town ward (KC)

Properties currently in Stamford ward

- All properties on what is known as Manor Park will move to the new created ward to be known as Horton (N)
- All properties on what is known as Noble Park will move to the new created ward to be known as Horton (N)
- Burnet Grove, Court Lane (all except The Sidings), Hunters Close, Langlands Rise, Marshalls Close, Sharon Close, Sheraton Drive & West Hill (2-32 even) will move to Town ward (KC)
- Horton Lane will move to the new created ward to be known as Horton (N)

**Stoneleigh Ward**

No boundary changes were made in the review to Stoneleigh ward.

**Nonsuch & Ewell**

The review made these changes to Nonsuch and Ewell ward boundaries.

Properties currently in Ewell ward

- Properties west side of Epsom Road (Camelia House to Satis Court), Beech Walk, Hampton Grove, Langton Avenue, St James Avenue, Windmill Avenue & Windmill Lane (3- 21 odd, The Corner House, Eythorne Court & Lammtarra Place will move to Nonsuch ward (IB)
- All properties in polling district Ewell (JC) will move to Town ward (KA)
- No properties are moving out of Nonsuch ward.

The **name** of Ewell ward will change to become

- Ewell Village ward

**Town, College & Woodcote**

The review made these changes to Town, College and Woodcote ward boundaries.

Properties currently in Town ward

- Hook Road (41–179 odd & 22-164 even), Miles Road & Windsor Gardens will move to Court ward (FB)
- Church Road (5-97 odd & 20-64 even), Church Street (20-26 even, 57-59 odd & Pitt Place), Downside (1, 3 & Gilesmead only), Grove Avenue, Grove Road, The Grove, Pikes Hill, Wyeths Mews & Wyeths Road will move to College ward (LB)

No properties are moving out of College ward

The **name** of Woodcote ward will change to become

- Woodcote and Langley Vale ward

Properties currently in Woodcote ward

- Dalmeny Way will move to Town ward (KB)

## **Appendix C**

**Epsom & Ewell Borough Council**

**Proposed Polling Districts & Places and Acting Returning Officers’  
representations**

**Cuddington Ward**

Number of Polling Districts:	Two
Number of Polling Places:	Two
Electorate in Ward:	<b>4890</b>
Postal Voters in Ward:	<b>759</b>

**Boundary Review Changes**

The properties now in Cuddington ward we propose to locate as follows

- Barn Elms Close will move to Polling District AA
- Cuddington Avenue (49-94 evens) and Vale Road (Flat 1-6, 156 only) will move to Polling District AA
- The Grange, Kingston Road (370-434 even), Plantagenet Close, Salisbury Road (1-55 odd & 4-50 even) and The Warren will move to Polling District AB
- Salisbury Road (68-72 evens) will move to Polling District AB

**Other Changes**

We have in the past received complaints from residents who live in Bartlett House, The Avenue (AA) that their polling station is too far and why can they not vote at the polling place at St Mary's Church, which is very close to their block of flats.

To make this change and to neaten the polling district boundary we plan to move other properties in The Avenue, as below, to St Mary's Church as well.

Although this will split The Avenue between Polling Districts AA & AB it will mean that voters will be able to vote at a nearer polling place instead of having to pass one polling station to get to their allocated, more distant polling station.

Cuddington Avenue was previously split between Auriol & Cuddington wards but has been moved by the Boundary Commission Review and is now fully in Cuddington Ward. The existing part of Cuddington Avenue is currently in Polling District AB but in order to ensure that voters do not have to pass by one polling place to get to their own allocated polling station we intend to move the whole road into polling district AA.

Similar to Cuddington Avenue we also intend to move Alsom Avenue, Cardinal Close and Wolsey Close from polling district AB to AA which again means that voters will be able to vote at a nearer polling place.

We intend to make the following internal moves:

- Bartlett House, 49-51 The Avenue and nos. 59-63 (odd) and 52-80 (even) The Avenue move from AA to AB.
- Cuddington Avenue (1-47 odd and 2-46 evens), Alsom Avenue, Wolsey Close and Cardinal Close move from AB to AA

**Cuddington Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>A(A)</b>
<b>Electorate in District:</b>	<b>2743</b>
<b>Postal Voters:</b>	<b>354</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	Scout Hut (Rowe Hall), Salisbury Road, Worcester Park
<b>No. of Stations</b>	2
<b>Map Ref.</b>	1
<b>Proposals</b>	Polling Place - No change Polling District – Changes yes see above
<b>Comments</b>	Premises and location satisfactory Disabled access - good Parking – limited off-street parking available on site. On-street parking available around venue.

**Proposed New Polling District****Acting Returning Officer's Representations**

No adverse feedback has been received post the May 2021 elections. No change is proposed to the polling place as it is considered to be appropriate.

**The changes to the polling districts will put the existing polling place for AA within its borders, which it is not currently.**

**Cuddington Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>A(B)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>2147</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>405</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	St Mary's Church Hall, The Avenue, Worcester Park
<b>No. of Stations</b>	1
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	Premises and location satisfactory Disabled access - good Parking - off-street parking available on site. On-street parking also available around venue. Venue is large enough to accommodate 2 polling Stations if necessary

**Proposed Polling District****Acting Returning Officer's Representations**

No adverse feedback has been received following the May 2021 elections. No change is proposed to the polling place as it is considered to be appropriate.

The planned polling district changes will mean voters will vote at a closer polling station to their homes.

**I consider the proposed polling district and polling place to be appropriate.**

**Auriol Ward**

Number of Polling Districts:	One
Number of Polling Places:	One
Electorate in Ward:	<b>3389</b>
Postal Voters in Ward	<b>509</b>

**Boundary Review Changes**

The properties now in Auriol ward are as follows

- Bannow Close, Chestnut Avenue, Kingston Road (332-368 even), Sterry Drive and Timbercroft

This Ward is currently not divided into polling districts, and it is intended that this will remain the same. The main reasons for dividing a ward into polling districts is the size of the electorate and availability of venues to be used as a polling place. There is limited if no other suitable venues in this ward and the current venue is suitable to accommodate the number of voters in the ward.



**Auriol Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>3389</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>509</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	Stoneleigh Methodist Church Centre, Stoneleigh Crescent, Stoneleigh, Ewell
<b>No. of Stations</b>	2
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	Premises and location satisfactory Disabled access - good Parking – off-street parking available on site. On-street parking available around venue.

**Proposed Polling District****Acting Returning Officer's Representations**

No adverse feedback has been received post the May 2021 elections.

**I consider the polling district and polling place to be appropriate.**

**Ewell Court Ward**

Number of Polling Districts: Two  
Number of Polling Places: Two  
Electorate in Ward: **3555**  
Postal Voters in Ward: **584**

**Boundary Review Changes**

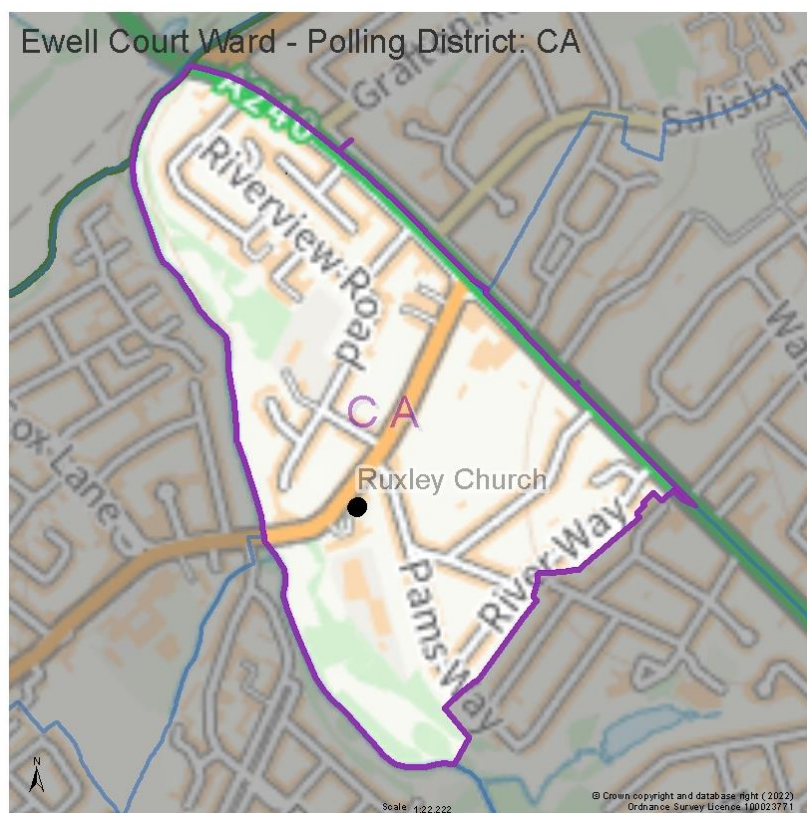
The size of the Ward has been reduced by the removal of properties on the north side of Kingston Road which were part of polling district CA. These properties have been split between Cuddington and Auriol Wards.

- The Grange, Kingston Road (370-434 evens) Plantagenet Close, Salisbury Road, (1-55 odd & 4-50 even) and The Warren will move to Cuddington Ward
- Bannow Close, Chestnut Avenue, Kingston Road (332-368 even), Sterry Drive and Timbercroft will move to Auriol Ward

There are no boundary changes to Polling District CB so it will remain as existing

**Ewell Court Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>C(A)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>1893</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	307
<b>Polling Place</b>	Ruxley Church, Ruxley Lane, West Ewell
<b>No. of Stations</b>	1
<b>Map Ref.</b>	4
<b>Proposal</b>	No change other than reduction down to a single polling station from double polling station
<b>Comments</b>	Premises and location - Good Disabled access - Good Parking – off-street parking available on site.

**Proposed Polling District****Acting Returning Officer's Representations**

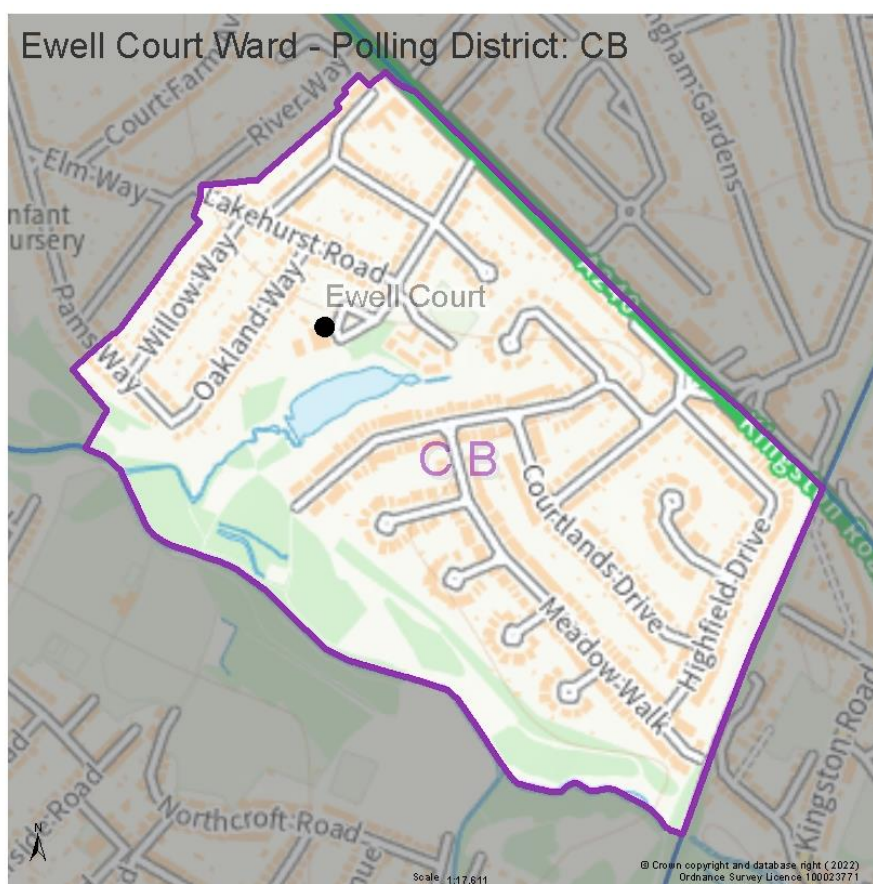
The church has been designated as the polling place for C(A) since 2013. No adverse feedback has been received post the May 2021 elections.

However due to the boundary changes and subsequent reduction in electorate it will now only require a single polling station instead of the current two.

**I consider the polling district and polling place to be appropriate.**

**Ewell Court Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>C(B)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>1662</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>277</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	Ewell Court House, Lakehurst Road, Ewell
<b>No. of Stations</b>	1
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	Council owned premises Premises and location satisfactory Disabled access – good via separate side door Parking - off-street parking available

**Polling District****Acting Returning Officer's Representations**

No adverse feedback has been received post the May 2021 elections.

This Council owned venue has been a good polling place for voters, and it is intended to continue to use it due to its good location and the lack of alternatives in the area.

**I consider the polling district and polling place to be appropriate.**

**Ruxley Ward**

Number of Polling Districts: One  
Number of Polling Places: One  
Electorate in Ward: **3682**  
Postal Voters in Ward **481**

**Boundary Review Changes**

Although there have been some significant changes to Ruxley ward with a large reduction in size it is intended that the ward is not divided into polling districts. The main reason for dividing a ward into polling districts is the size of the electorate and availability of venues to be used as a polling place.

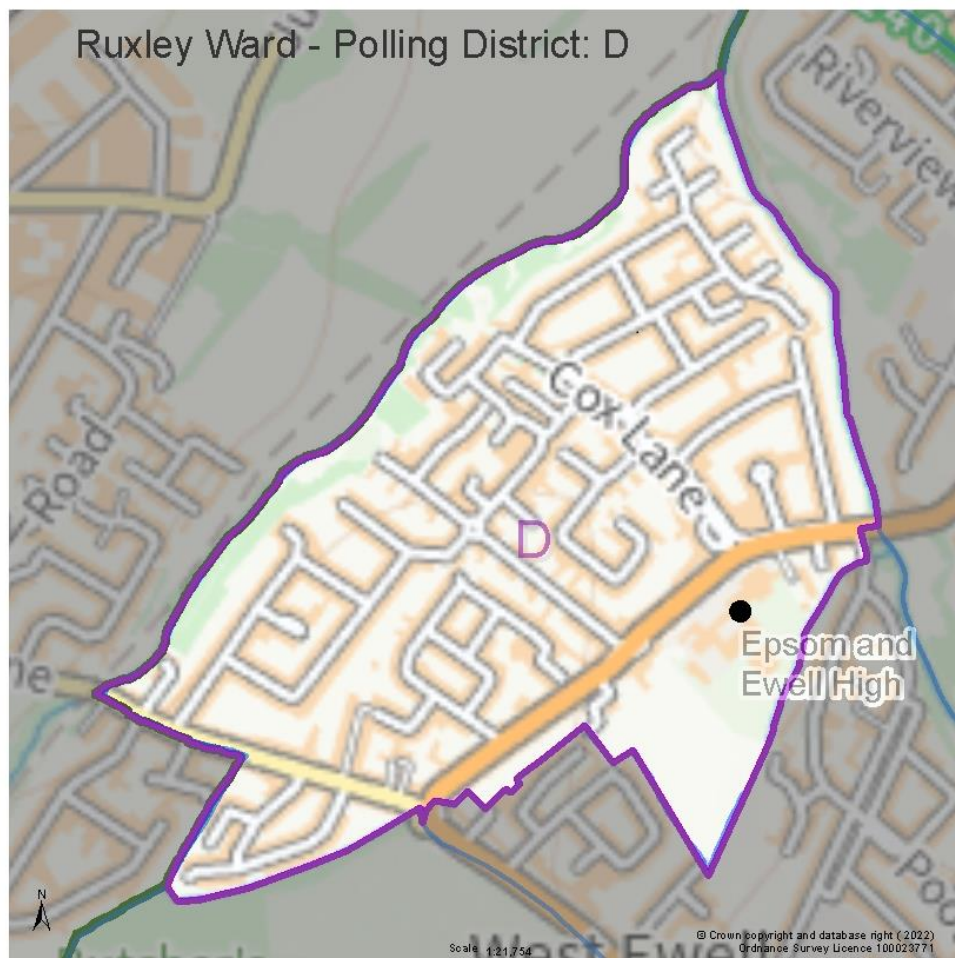
There are no other suitable venues within this ward and the current venue is suitable to accommodate the number of voters in the ward.



**Ruxley Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>3682</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>481</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	Epsom & Ewell High School, Ruxley Lane, West Ewell
<b>No. of Stations</b>	2
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	<p>Premises and location satisfactory  Disabled access – good  Parking – off-street parking available on-site for disabled only during school hours</p> <p>Polling station is located in the North Annexe which is separate from main school building and enables the school to remain open on polling day.</p>

## Proposed Polling District



**Ruxley Ward (cont)**

**Acting Returning Officer's Representations**

It is recognised that the location of the current polling place in a school is not entirely satisfactory, but enquiries have failed to identify any premises suitable for designation as a polling place elsewhere in the ward and there would be a significant cost implication in providing temporary accommodation even if a suitable location could be found.

There have been issues with parking for voters during the school hours, however a compromise has been reached with the school to enable on-site parking for disabled voters. There is on-street parking available in roads close to the school. However, with the removal of the remote Clarendon Estate from the ward, which was not within walking distance, this should reduce the number of voters using vehicles to travel to the polling place.

To advise voters regarding the limited vehicle access, a warning is now printed on poll cards.

**In the absence of any alternatives, I consider the polling district and polling place appropriate.**

**West Ewell Ward**

Number of Polling Districts	Two
Number of Polling Places	Two
Electorate in Ward	<b>4865</b>
Postal Voters in Ward	<b>627</b>

**Boundary Review Changes**

The properties now in West Ewell ward are as follows

- Chessington Close, Chessington Road (374-478A even), Hemmings Mead, Larch Crescent, Nightingale Drive, Oak Tree Close, Poplar Crescent, Poplar Farm Close will move to West Ewell ward (EA)
- New development at former Epsom & Ewell High School Playing Fields will move to West Ewell ward (EA)

Although some properties have moved out from the southwest corner of West Ewell ward (EB) to Court ward it is not intended to move the existing polling district boundary between EA & EB as the new electorate will still be with acceptable levels for each polling station at this polling place.



**West Ewell Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>E(A)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>1935</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>267</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	West Ewell Evangelical Church, Lansdowne Road, West Ewell
<b>No. of Stations</b>	1
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Comments</b>	Premises and location satisfactory Disabled access - satisfactory Parking – Limited off-street parking on site; on-street parking on residential road.

## Proposed Polling District



**West Ewell Ward EA (cont)**

**Acting Returning Officer's Representations**

The Church has been used as an alternative to Danetree School since 2013 apart from a short period of time when it was unavailable and the Harrier Centre, Poole Road was used instead. Although the facilities within the Harrier Centre were good there were complaints made by voters regarding parking.

The main car park at the Harrier Centre is quite a distance from the actual building and the access road to the small parking area next to the building is narrow, with limited disabled parking adjacent to the building. The Harriers Athletic Club meets on a Thursday evening, so the main car park becomes full causing voters to have to park on adjacent roads.

Once the Church became available again the polling place for voters was reverted back and has worked very well with no adverse feedback since it's re-instatement.

No adverse feedback has been received post the May 2021 elections.

**I consider the proposed polling district to be appropriate.**

**I consider the polling place to be appropriate.**

**West Ewell Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>E(B)</b>
<b>Electorate in District:</b>	<b>2930</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>360</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	All Saints Church Community Centre Fulford Road, West Ewell
<b>No. of Stations</b>	2
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	Premises and location satisfactory Disabled access - good Parking – limited off-street parking available on site otherwise on-street parking in residential road.

Proposed Polling District

**Acting Returning Officer's Representations**

No adverse feedback has been received post the May 2021 elections.

**I consider the polling district and polling place appropriate.**

### **Court Ward**

Number of Polling Districts:	Two (Previously 3)
Number of Polling Places:	Two (Previously 3)
Electorate in Ward:	<b>4703</b>
Postal Voters in Ward	<b>538</b>

### **Boundary Review Changes**

There have been some significant changes to Court ward with the Livingstone Park estate moving to the newly created Horton ward, parts of West Ewell ward and Town ward will also be moving back into Court ward.

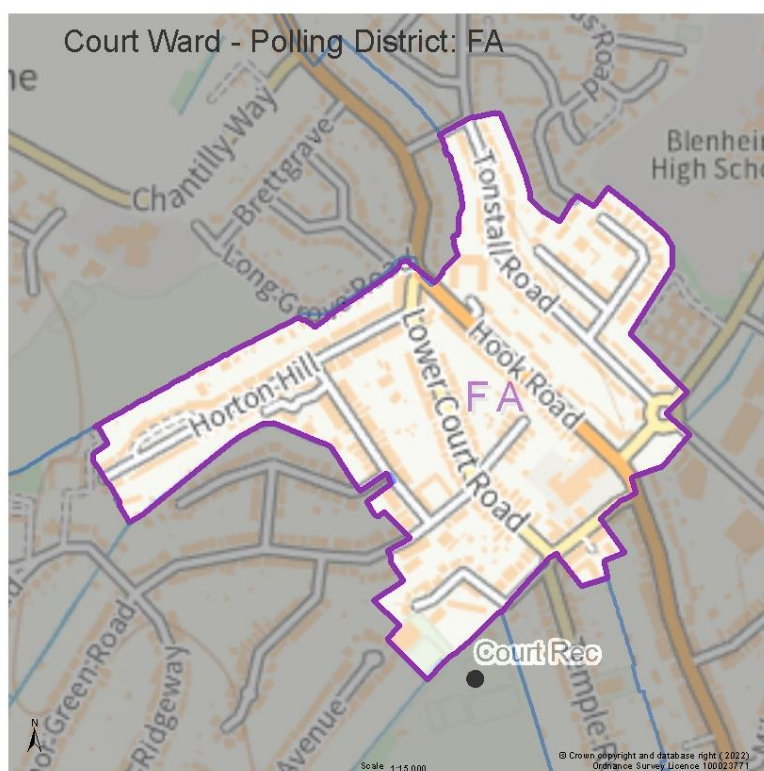
Due to the reduction in its size, it is intended that the Ward is divided into two polling districts instead of the existing three. These will be known as FA and FB.

- The current polling district that is known as FC will become the new FA with no extra properties added.
- The current polling district known as FB will stay the same but will increase in size with the addition of Hook Road (41–179 odd & 22-164 even), Miles Road & Windsor Gardens from Town ward (KC) and Brook Close, Dee Way, Gibraltar Crescent and Marsh Avenue from West Ewell ward (EB)

Due to the removal of the Livingstone Park estate to the new Horton ward it is expected that we will not need to use Southfield School as a polling place instead we intend to use Horton Chapel as a polling place for the new ward.

**Court Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>F(A) - Previously F(C)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>1519</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>197</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	Bowling Pavilion, Court Recreation Ground, Pound Lane, Epsom KT19 8SB
<b>No. of Stations</b>	1
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	Premises and location satisfactory Disabled access - good Parking – off-street parking available in adjacent car park

**Proposed Polling District****Acting Returning Officer's Representations**

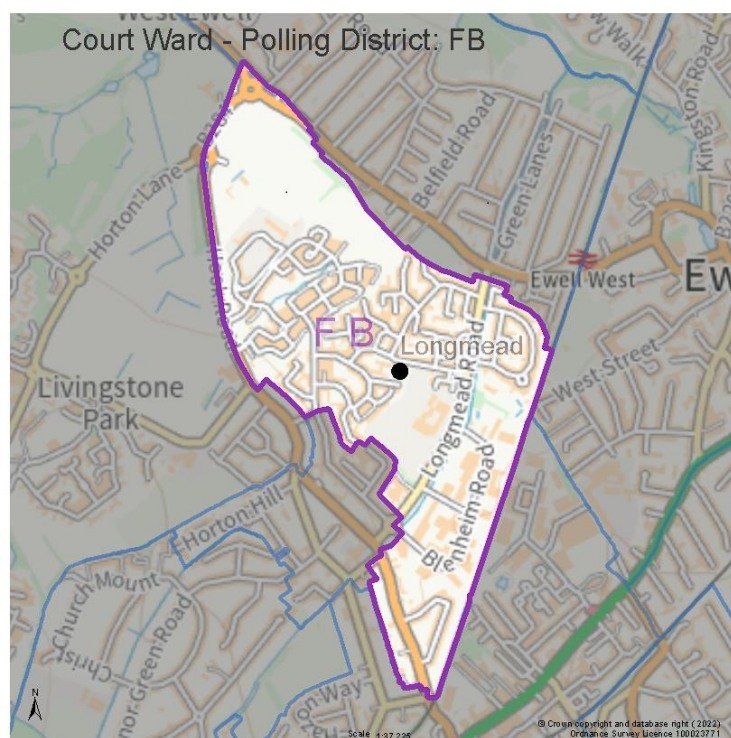
For the elections in 2021 Court Ward FA was split into 2 smaller polling districts FA & FC. The polling place for voters in the newly created FC was located at the Bowling Pavilion, Court Recreation Ground, Pound Lane, Epsom KT19 8SB. This worked well and there were no adverse comments from voters received post the May 2021 elections.

**Subject to the above comments, I consider the polling district and polling place appropriate.**



**Court Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>F(B)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>3184</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>341</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	Health and Wellbeing Centre (Former Longmead Centre), Sefton Road, Epsom
<b>No. of Stations</b>	1
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	Council-owned premises Premises and location satisfactory Disabled access - good Parking – off-street parking available on site. The polling station is located in the main hall.

**Proposed Polling District****Acting Returning Officer's Representations**

Due to the increase in number of voters the polling place may need to be split into 2 polling stations rather than the usual single polling station. A decision as to this happening will depend on the number of postal votes that are registered in the polling district. The current venue is easily able to accommodate 2 polling stations for voters.

No adverse feedback has been received post the May 2021 elections.

**I consider the polling district and polling place appropriate.**

**Stamford Ward**

Number of Polling Districts	Two (previously 3)
Number of Polling Places	Two (previously 3)
Electorate in Ward	<b>3676</b>
Postal Voters in Ward	<b>656</b>

**Boundary Review Changes**

There have been some significant changes to Stamford ward with both Manor Park & Noble Park estates moving to the newly created Horton ward and part of GA moving to Town ward.

It is proposed that the ward is divided into two polling districts instead of the existing three. These will be known as GA and GB.

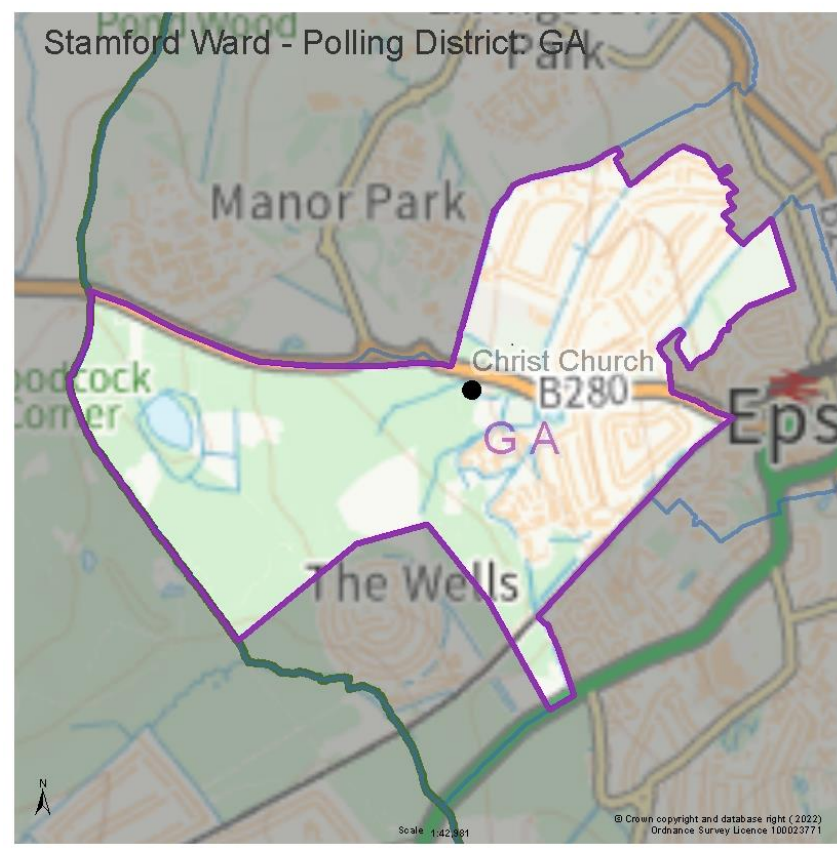
Because of the reduction in size combining the existing polling districts GA & GB to create one new polling district called GA would mean that only one polling place would be required instead of 2. Previously voters in the old GA polling district would vote at the Fellowship Hall in West Hill and those in GB would vote at Christ Church.

With the reduction in electorate in both GA & GB the current polling place at Christ Church will be able to accommodate 2 polling stations, as it currently does, for all voters in the proposed new polling district of GA, this would mean that the Fellowship Hall, in West Hill would no longer be required as a polling place.

The boundaries for the existing polling district currently known as GC have not changed and GC will be renamed GB.

**Stamford Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>G(A) - Previously G(A) &amp; G(B)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>2686</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>529</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	Church Hall, Christ Church, Christ Church Road Epsom
<b>No. of Stations</b>	2
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change to polling place Change to Polling district
<b>Comments</b>	<p>Premises satisfactory. Location – adequate Disabled access - adequate Parking – car park available on site but not immediately adjacent to building. On-street parking is also available</p> <p>Although the building is on the edge of the Ward/Polling District boundary, it is considered overall to be a good venue for voters. There are two pedestrian crossings on the main road either side of Christ Church Hall.</p>

**Proposed Polling District**



**Stamford Ward GA (cont.)**

**Acting Returning Officer's Representations**

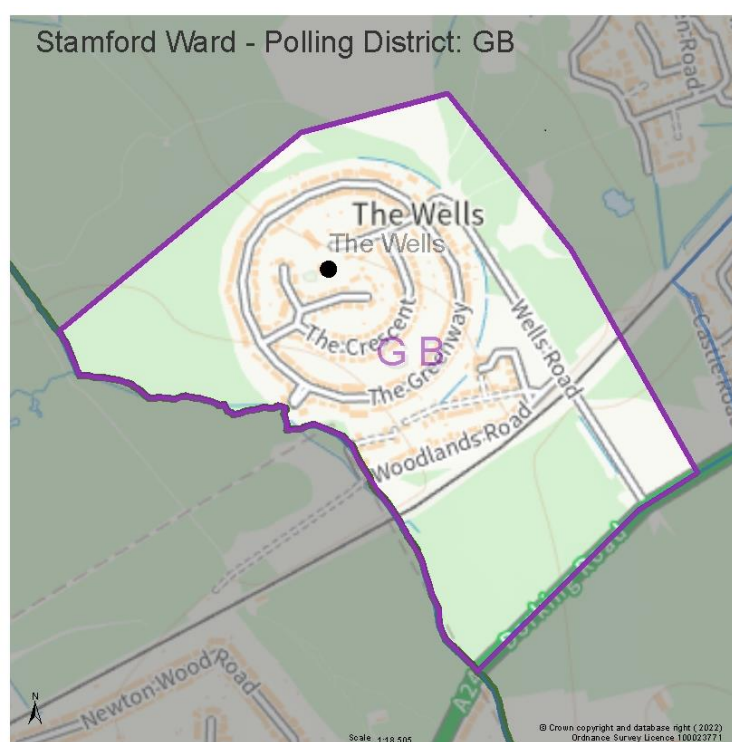
The size of this new polling district is similar to the size of the old polling district GB. The venue is good and selected so that we did not have to use Stamford Green School keeping to the Council's policy of not using schools.

No adverse feedback has been received post the May 2021 elections.

**I consider the proposed new polling district and change to the polling place appropriate.**

**Stamford Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>G(B) - Previously G(C)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>990</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	The Wells Social Centre, Spa Drive, Epsom
<b>No. of Stations</b>	1
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	<p>Council-owned premises Premises and location satisfactory Disabled access – Good Parking – good – car park on site.</p> <p>The polling station was located in a portable temporary unit in May 2021 due to the unavailability of the main building.</p> <p>This building was subject to a planning application for redevelopment however this is understood to be currently on hold and the centre is to be re-opened and run by a local community group. It is understood that leasing arrangements are in place to enable the use of the hall as a polling place once more and it should be ready and open by May 2023.</p>

**Polling District**

**Stamford Ward G(B) cont**

**Acting Returning Officer's Representations**

The polling station was located in a portable temporary unit in May 2021 due to the unavailability of the main building, this was not ideal for a number of reasons.

The main reason for the temporary unit was because the main building had not been in use since 2019 and due to health & safety reasons was not able to be used.

There were issues with the size of the temporary unit, which was smaller than hoped, because of the narrow vehicular access at the site and made implementing the required covid precautions for staff and voters more challenging. There were also problems with the generator not working which affected, lighting and heating for staff and voters.

However, with the centre being re-opened it is the best option as a polling place for voters as there are no other venues on the Wells Estate that can be used.

**Subject to the above comments, I consider the polling district and polling place appropriate.**

### **Stoneleigh Ward**

Number of Polling Districts:	One – (Previously 2)
Number of Polling Places:	One
Electorate in Ward:	<b>3612</b>
Postal Voters	<b>474</b>

### **Boundary Review Changes**

There are no ward boundary changes to Stoneleigh ward so it will remain as existing.

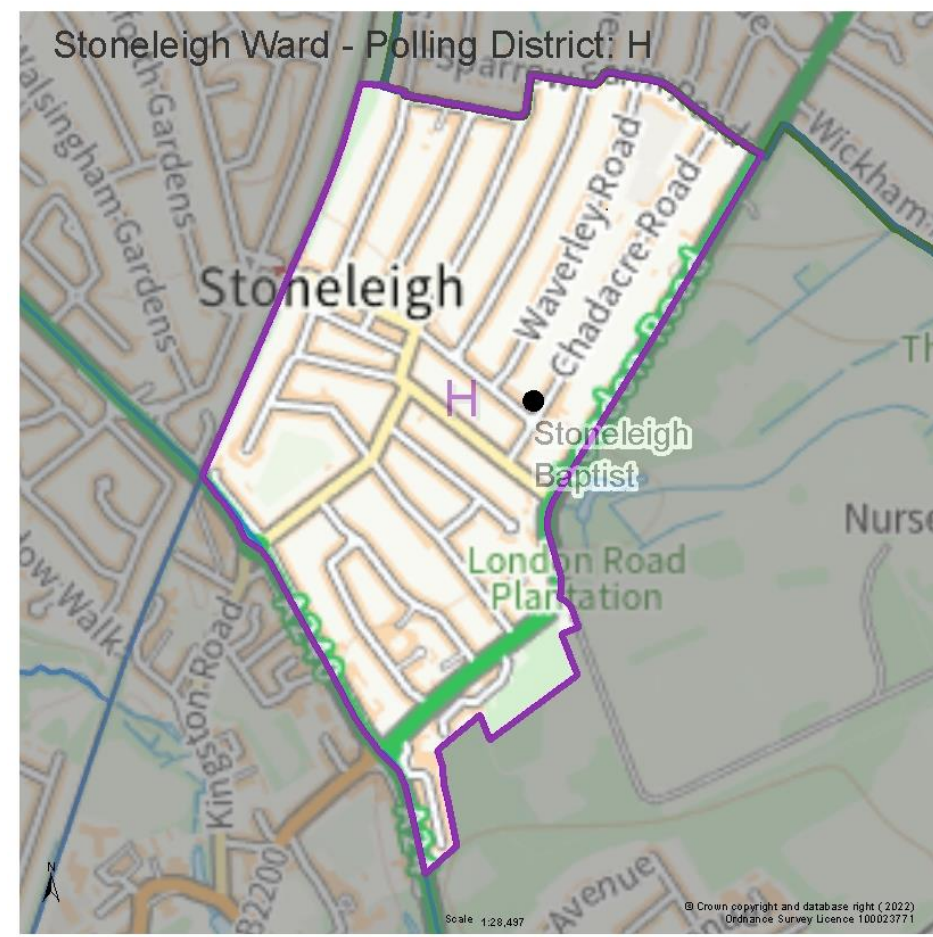
The ward is currently divided into 2 polling districts however it is proposed that they be merged to create a ward called H.

The main reasons for dividing a ward into polling districts is the size of the electorate and availability of venues to be used as a polling place. Currently there is just one polling place used for both polling districts as there are no other suitable venues within the ward so merging both polling districts would be justified.

**Stoneleigh Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>H - previously H(A) &amp; H(B)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>3612</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>474</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	Stoneleigh Baptist Church Hall, The Glade, Stoneleigh
<b>No. of Stations</b>	2
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change to polling place Polling District – merge with HB and rename H
<b>Comments</b>	Premises and location satisfactory Disabled access - good Parking – limited off street parking available. On-street parking available around venue

## Proposed Polling District



**Stoneleigh Ward (cont)**

**Acting Returning Officer's Representations**

No adverse feedback has been received post the May 2021 elections.

This venue has worked well for many years, in 2021 due to the precautions taken under the Covid regulations a change was made with one polling station in the main hall and the other relocated to the lobby/café area. This worked very well, and it is anticipated that we could repeat this arrangement for future elections, so each station has more space and less confusion with voters getting into the correct polling station queue easier.

**I consider the proposal to merge the polling districts to be appropriate.**

**I consider the current polling place to be appropriate.**

**Nonsuch Ward**

Number of Polling Districts:	Two
Number of Polling Places:	Two
Electorate in Ward:	<b>5280</b>
Postal Voters	<b>934</b>

**Boundary Review Changes**

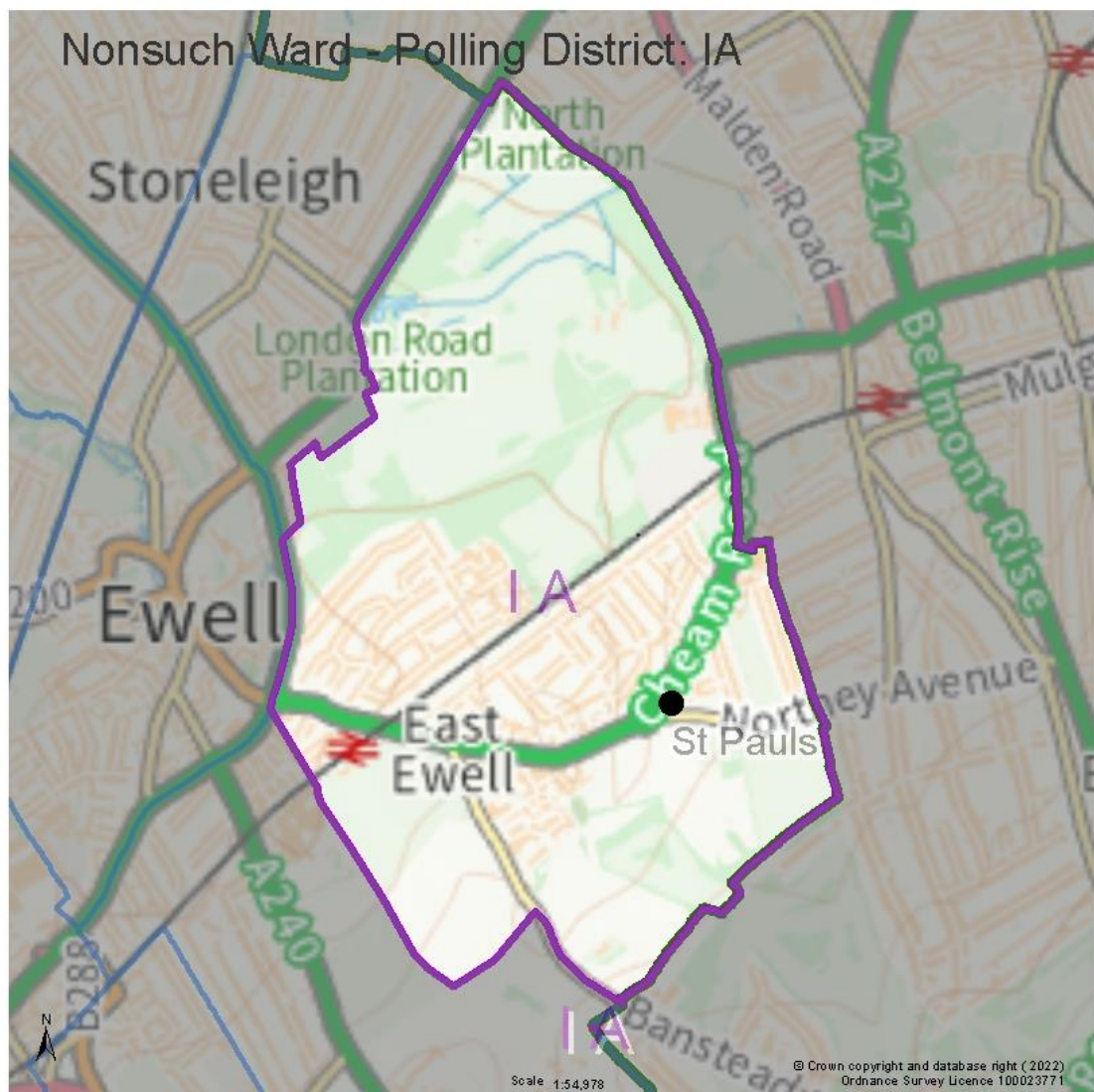
The properties now in Nonsuch ward are as follows

- Properties west side of Epsom Road (Camelia House to Satis Court), Beech Walk, Hampton Grove, Langton Avenue, St James Avenue, Windmill Avenue & Windmill Lane (3- 21 odd, The Corner House, Eythorne Court & Lammtarra Place) will move to Nonsuch ward IB
- It is proposed to move the polling district boundary so that properties in the former NESLOT site move from IA to IB

**Nonsuch Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>I(A)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>3493</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>595</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	St Paul's Church Centre, 15 Northey Ave, Cheam
<b>No. of Stations</b>	2
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Comments</b>	Premises and location satisfactory Disabled access - good Parking – off-street parking available on site. On-street parking available around venue

## Proposed Polling District





**Nonsuch Ward I(A) cont**

**Acting Returning Officer's Representations**

The location of the NESCOT housing estate and the existing polling district boundary means that voters living on the estate currently have to travel quite a distance to their polling place.

The proposal is to move part of the current polling district boundary to run along the back of the properties in Chatsfield, Conaways Close and St Normans Way. Such a change would move this area into Nonsuch IB polling district, and these voters will then vote at a NESCOT College which is within walking distance.

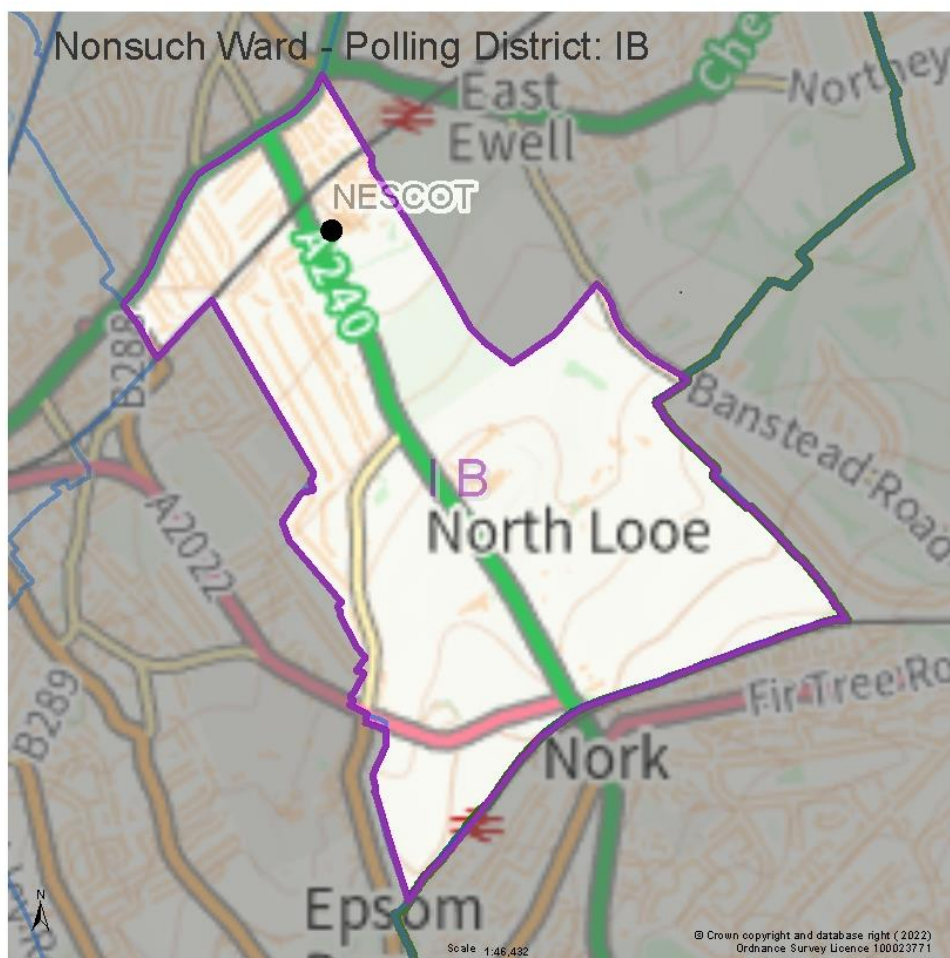
**Subject to the above changes to the polling district, I consider the proposed polling district and polling place to be appropriate.**

**Nonsuch Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>I(B)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>1787</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>339</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	NESCOT College, Reigate Road, Ewell
<b>No. of Stations</b>	1
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	<b>No Change</b>
<b>Comments</b>	<p>Premises and location satisfactory  Disabled access – good  Parking – off street parking available in large car park close to venue.</p> <p>Previously Wallace Fields Junior School was used as a polling station which was unpopular with parents of students and caused many complaints every scheduled and unscheduled election even though the school had been given plenty of notice of planned election dates and could have planned one of their inset days to be on election day.</p> <p>In 2021 we trialled the use of NESCOT, Reigate Road as an alternative. The original room planned for the polling station was not available due to Covid precautions, so the Adrian Mann Theatre was used instead. The polling station was located on the theatre's stage and voters accessed via the side stage door.</p> <p>Although using the theatre was not ideal it was seen to be a better option than closing Wallace Fields school again. We hope to be able to find a better location within the grounds of NESCOT, preferably a room closer to the main car park for future elections.</p> <p>The planned change to the polling district boundary, so that properties within the NESCOT housing estate become part of Nonsuch IB and with the addition of properties formerly in Ewell JB will increase the electorate at this polling place.</p>

**Nonsuch Ward IB (cont)**

## Proposed Polling District

**Acting Returning Officer's Representations**

At the time of the previous review, it was noted that, although the Council has a policy to avoid the use of schools there was no alternative to Wallace Fields Junior School. NES-COT had been approached in the past but responded at the time, that, because of the intensity of use of the site, they could not make any accommodation available unless an election was held in a half term or vacation period (which was unlikely).

Further site visits undertaken to NES-COT in 2019 established that the former restaurant could be available, and it was proposed that it would be used on a trial basis in May 2020. However, due to the pandemic no elections were held in 2020 and when the May 2021 elections were due the restaurant had been re-purposed for use by the College as a covid test area for staff and pupils so was not available which is why the theatre was used instead.

**Nonsuch Ward IB (cont)**

**Acting Returning Officer's Representations (cont)**

We would like to continue to use NESCOL and see if there is other suitable accommodation other than the theatre or if none is available investigate the use of having a temporary polling station unit at this site on polling day instead.

Other than Wallace Fields Junior School there are limited venues in the area. A site visit was made to investigate the use of the pavilion at the playing fields owned by Glyn School adjacent to NESCOL, but it was found to be unsuitable due to the usage by the school and its internal layout.

**Subject to the above comments being accepted I consider the proposals for the changes to the polling district to be appropriate.**

**The polling place is considered to be appropriate in light of the current constraints.**

**Ewell Village Ward**

Number of Polling Districts:	One (previously 3)
Number of Polling Places:	One (previously 3)
Electorate in Ward:	<b>3301</b>
Postal Voters	<b>495</b>

**Boundary Review Changes**

The first change to Ewell ward is that its name was changed as part of the Local Boundary Commission review and will now be known as Ewell Village Ward.

The ward is currently divided into 3 polling districts. Part of JB and all of JC are moving to adjacent wards, so it is proposed that the remaining part of JB and JA be merged to create a ward with a single polling district called J.

Currently voters in Ewell JB use Glyn School, The Kingsway as a Polling Place. The polling station is currently located in the staff room so that the school can remain open on polling day.

Using this room has been less than ideal as the Staff room is small and accessed via a flight of stairs. Disabled access is via a lift and to access the lift voters need to ring a bell on the ground floor for assistance from the school reception staff.

During school hours there are also access issues to the school for both pedestrians and vehicles as the main gates are closed to provide security for the pupils. There is also very limited parking both on site during school hours and with on-street parking in the area.

Due to the pandemic, for the elections in 2021, the polling place was moved on a trial basis to Bourne Hall and located in The Studio. Although Bourne Hall already has 2 polling stations and system to direct voters in JB to the correct room worked well on the day.

There will be an increase in electorate in merging JA & JB, but the new electorate figures are within the range set down by the Electoral Commission for voter numbers at a polling place especially once the number of postal voters is taken into account

**Ewell Village Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>J - Previously J(A) &amp; J(B)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>3301</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>495</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	Bourne Hall, Spring Street, Ewell
<b>No. of Stations</b>	2
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change to Polling Place Polling District – merge with remainder of JB and rename J
<b>Comments</b>	Council-owned premises Premises and location satisfactory Disabled access - good Parking – off-street parking available (public car park).  The polling station is located in the Rose Room.

## Proposed Polling District



**Ewell Village Ward J (cont)**

**Acting Returning Officer's Representations**

No adverse feedback has been received post the May 2021 elections.

Not using Glyn School will be in line with the Council's policy of not using schools where possible.

**I consider the proposed polling district to be appropriate.**

**I also consider the polling place appropriate.**

**Town Ward**

Number of Polling Districts	Three
Number of Polling Places	Three
Electorate in Ward	<b>5248</b>
Postal Voters	<b>742</b>

**Boundary Review Changes**

There are some significant changes to Town ward.

All properties in polling district Ewell JC will move to Town ward so will be merged into Polling district KA.

These properties currently in KB - Church Road (5-97 odd & 20-64 even), Church Street (20-26 even, 57-59 odd & Pitt Place), Downside (1, 3 & Gilesmead only), Grove Avenue, Grove Road, The Grove, Pikes Hill, Wyeths Mews & Wyeths Road will move to College ward LB.

These properties currently in KC - Hook Road (41–179 odd & 22-164 even), Miles Road & Windsor Gardens will move to Court ward FB.

It is recommended that the properties previously in Stamford ward GA - Burnet Grove, Court Lane (all except The Sidings), Hunters Close, Langlands Rise, Marshalls Close, Sharon Close, Sheraton Drive & West Hill (2-32 even) be merged into polling district (KC).

This is because the loss of Miles Road & Hook Road from KC to Court ward has reduced the electorate numbers that will vote at St Barnabas Church which is the current polling place for KC. If the voters in GA are merged with KC, it will bring the electorate up to a decent level and it will also keep them in the same County Council electoral division.

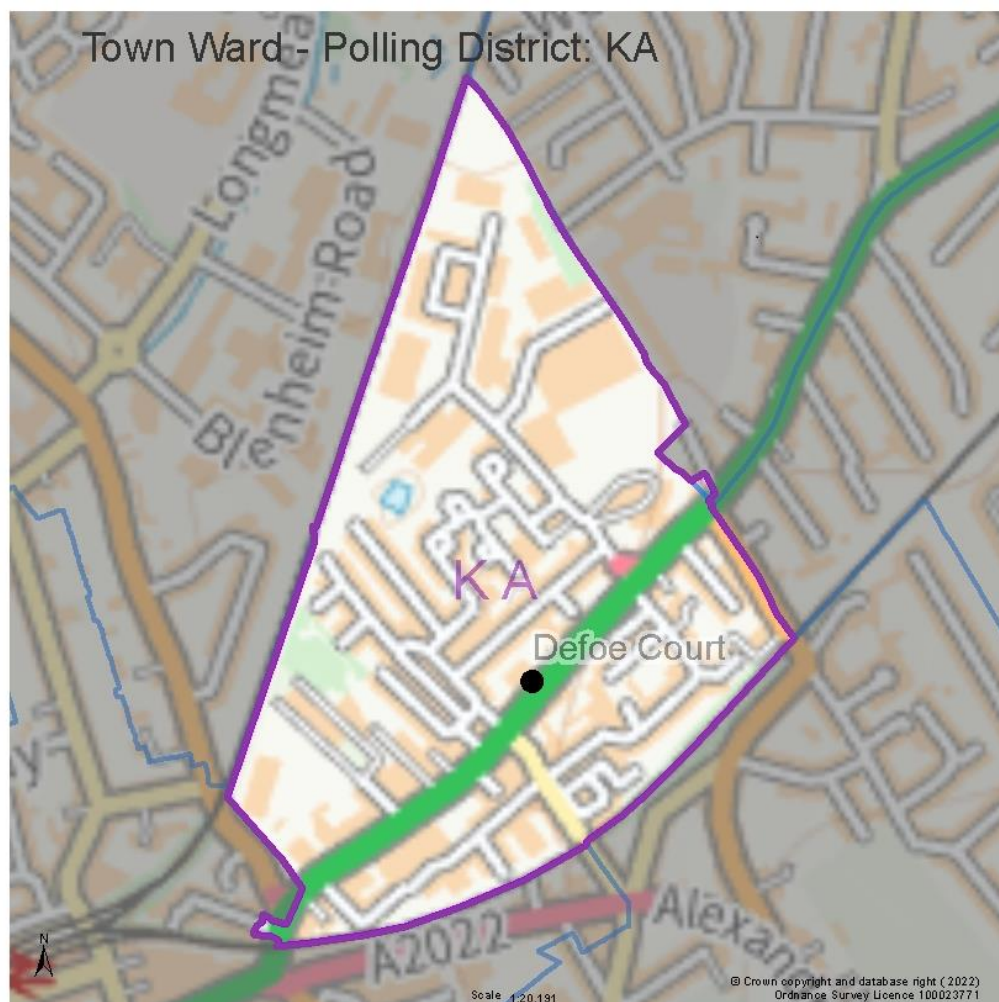
It is also proposed that the boundary of KA be adjusted and that the properties in Hook Road and Adelphi Road also be moved into KC.



**Town Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>K(A)</b>
<b>Electorate</b>	<b>1869</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>269</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	Defoe Court, 87 East Street, Epsom
<b>No. of Stations</b>	1
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	<b>No Change</b>
<b>Comments</b>	Premises and location satisfactory Disabled access - good Parking – no parking available  The polling station is located in the conference room.

## Proposed Polling District



**Town Ward KA (cont)****Acting Returning Officer's Representations**

When trialled back in 2001, The Ebbisham Centre was not a popular choice with the electorate owing largely to the issue of parking (there is no free or convenient on-street parking in the vicinity of the building). However, this would apply to the majority of locations in the Town centre. The options for polling station accommodation in this area were very limited and no other suitable premises had been located.

Since Defoe Court has been available, this has been a much better located polling place. It has good disabled access and 24-hour staff on duty for any assistance needs. Although there is no parking, the station is much more centrally placed in the polling district.

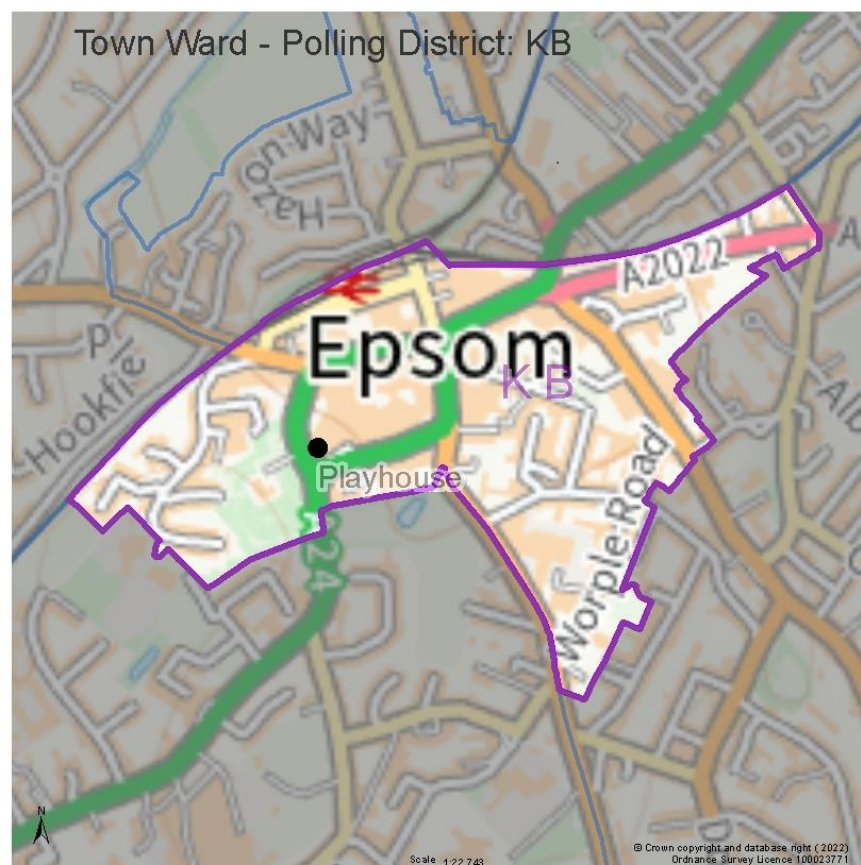
This same building was used for voters who voted in the old polling district JC which has now become part of Town ward and been merged with KA.

Previously we had to keep the voters from different wards separate by dividing the room to create 2 polling stations, but this will not be required once the 2 polling districts are merged.

**I consider the polling district and the continued use of the existing polling place to be appropriate.**

**Town Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>K(B)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>2267</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>333</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	Epsom Playhouse, Ashley Avenue, Epsom
<b>No. of Stations</b>	2
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	<p>Council owned premises Premises and location satisfactory Disabled access - good Parking - Multi storey public car park adjacent to Playhouse. No on-street parking close to venue.</p> <p>The Polling Station is located in the Myers Hall.</p>

**Proposed Polling District****Acting Returning Officer's Representations**

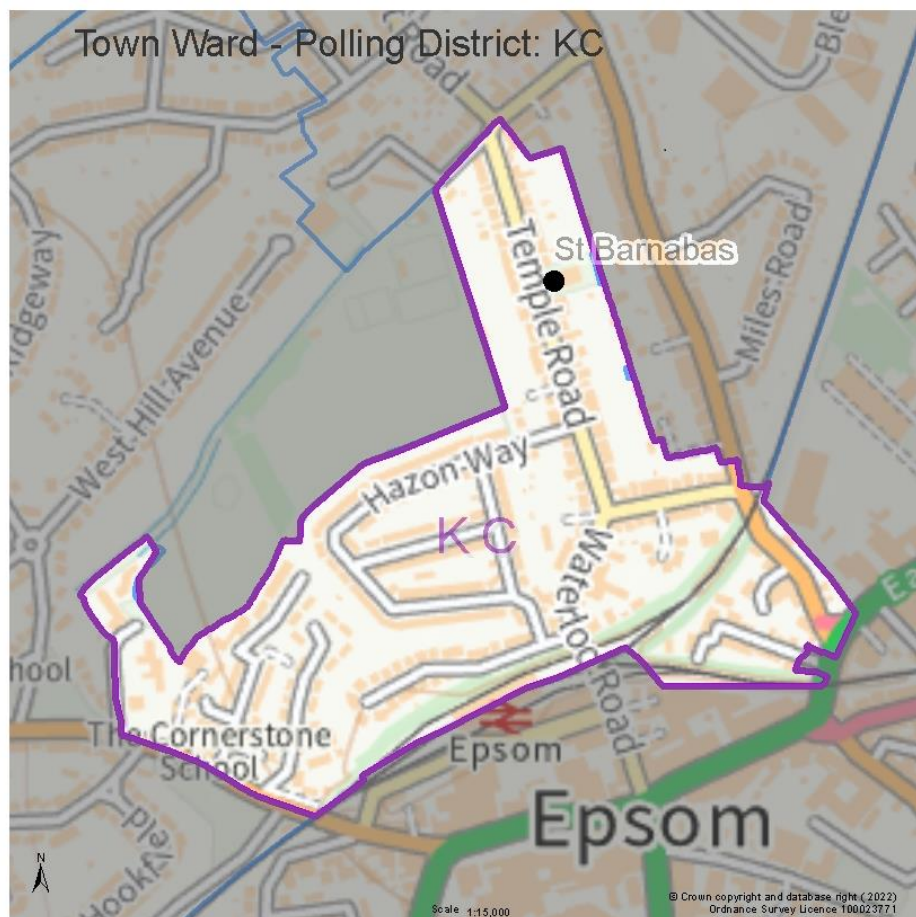
No adverse feedback has been received post the May 2021 elections.

**I therefore consider the polling district and polling place appropriate.**

**Town Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>K(C)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>1112</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>140</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	St Barnabas Church, Temple Road, Epsom
<b>No. of Stations</b>	1
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change to polling place  Polling District to merge with voters previously in GA and Hook Road & Adelphi Road move from KA to KC
<b>Comments</b>	Premises and location good Disabled access - good Parking – off-street parking available on site.

Proposed Polling District

**Acting Returning Officer's Representations**

No adverse feedback has been received post the May 2021 elections.

**I consider the proposed polling district and polling place appropriate.**

**College Ward**

Number of Polling Districts	Two
Number of Polling Places	Two
Electorate in Ward	<b>4952</b>
Postal Voters	<b>1059</b>

**Boundary Review Changes**

There is just one property moving out of the existing College ward following a minor boundary adjustment which moves the Epsom Bowling Club in Worple Road to Town ward but as the site is non-residential it will not affect the electorate in its current use.

No other properties are moving out of College ward just into from Town ward  
KB

The properties moving into College ward from Town ward are

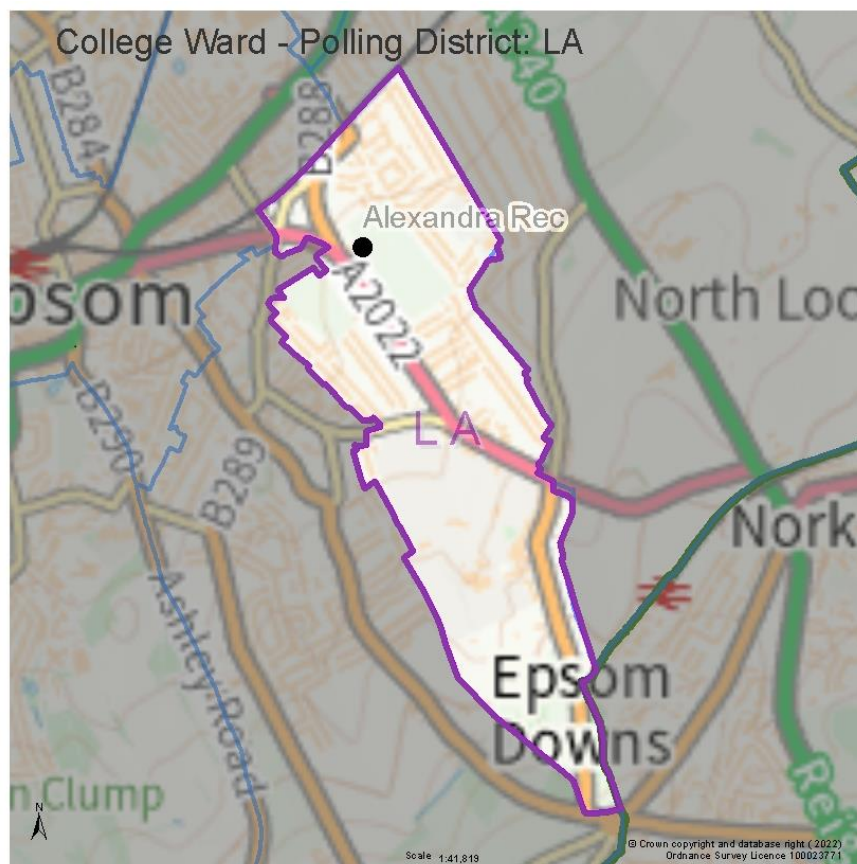
- Church Road (5-97 odd & 20-64 even), Church Street (20-26 even, 57-59 odd & Pitt Place), Downside (1, 3 & Gilesmead only), Grove Avenue, Grove Road, The Grove, Pikes Hill, Wyeths Mews & Wyeths Road.

It is intended to put these properties into polling district LB rather than LA as the polling place for LB is located within the properties that have moved and is better placed for accommodating these extra voters than the polling place in LA



**College Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>L(A)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>1929</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>361</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	The Pavilion, Alexandra Recreation Ground, Alexandra Road, Epsom
<b>No. of Stations</b>	1
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	Council owned premises Premises and location satisfactory Disabled access - Adequate Parking – close to pavilion for staff & disabled. In main car park for other voters.

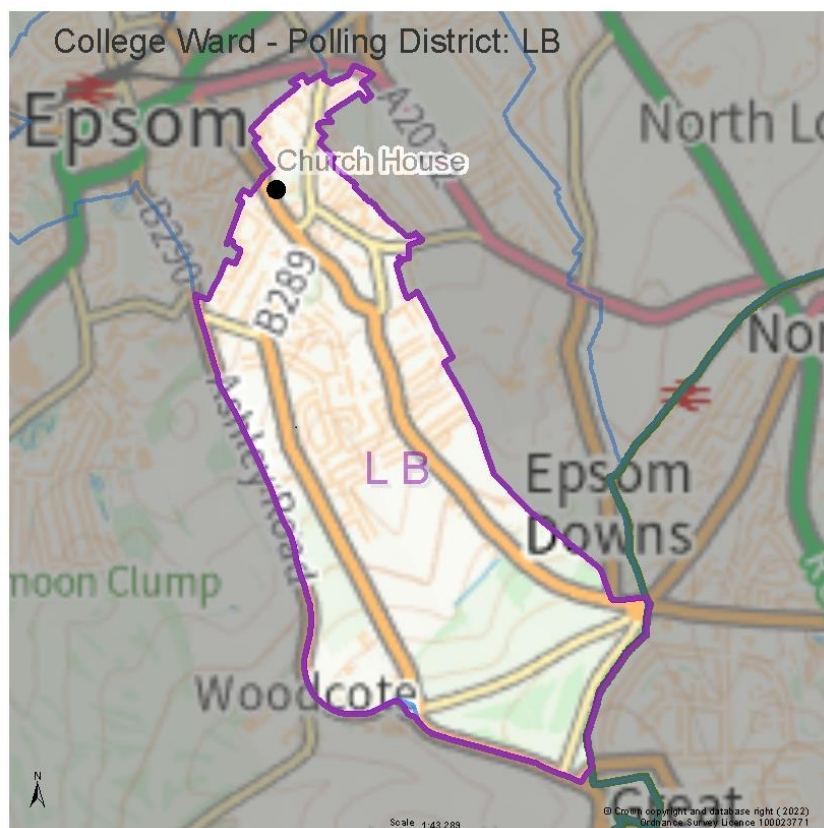
**Polling District****Acting Returning Officer's Representations**

No adverse feedback has been received post the May 2021 elections.

**I consider the polling district and polling place appropriate.**

**College Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>L(B)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>3023</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>698</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	The Church House, Church Street, Epsom
<b>No. of Stations</b>	1
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	<p>Premises and location satisfactory  Disabled access - good  Parking – off-street parking available on site. No on-street parking close to venue.</p> <p>Previously the polling place was not located within the College ward boundaries but due to the recent boundary changes it now is. The venue has worked very well for many years and depending on the number of postal voters should be able to accommodate a double polling station if required. As far as the Council is aware, there are no other suitable premises (halls etc) within the College Ward/Polling District boundaries.</p> <p>The polling station is located in The Wisley Room.</p>

**Proposed Polling District**

**College Ward LB (cont)**

**Acting Returning Officer's Representations**

No adverse feedback has been received post the May 2021 elections.

**I consider the polling district and polling place to be appropriate.**



**Woodcote and Langley Vale Ward**

Number of Polling Districts	Three
Number of Polling Places	Three
Electorate in Ward	<b>4411</b>
Postal Voters	<b>895</b>

**Boundary Review Changes**

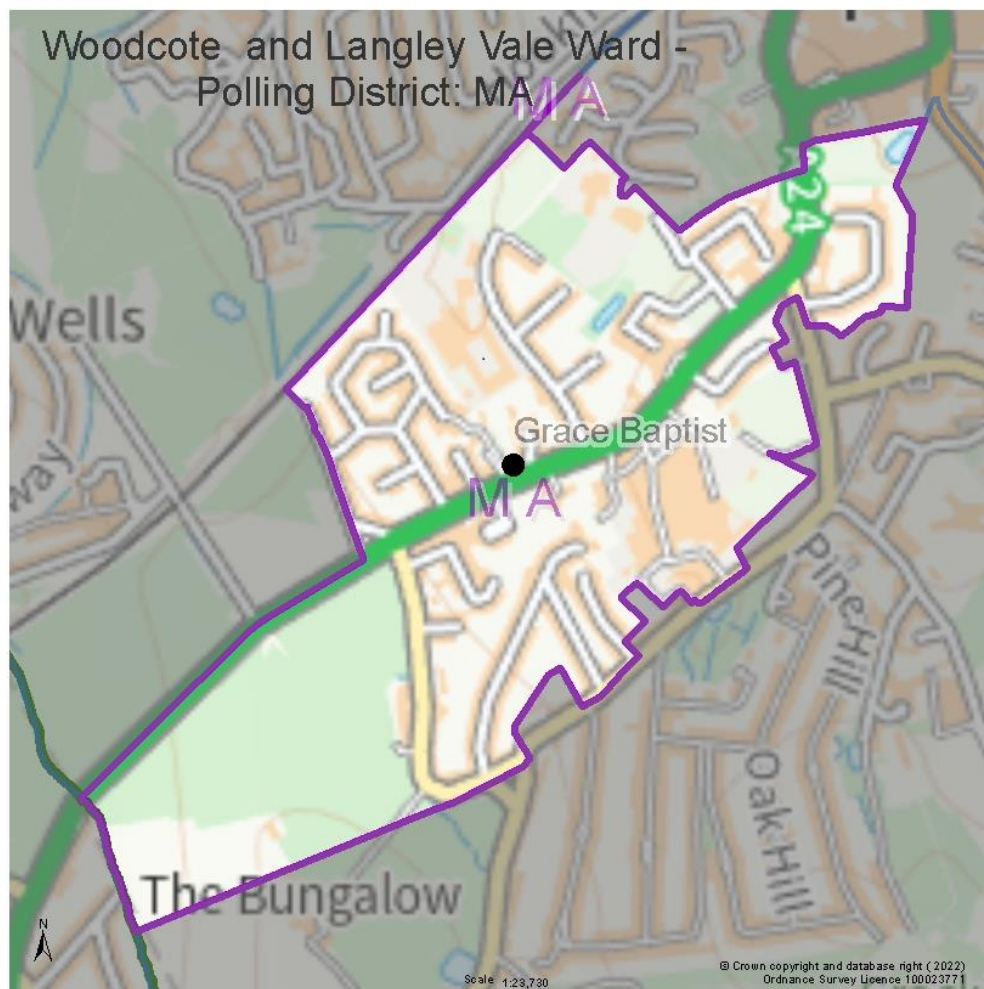
The main change to Woodcote ward is that its name was changed as part of the Local Boundary Commission review and will now be known as Woodcote and Langley Vale Ward.

The only other change to the ward is a minor change to the existing polling district MA in that all of Dalmeny Way has been moved into Town ward KB. Other than this change there have been no other property moves to Woodcote ward and it is proposed to retain the existing polling districts.

**Woodcote and Langley Vale Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>M(A)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>1569</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>315</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	Grace Baptist Church, 32 Dorking Road, Epsom
<b>No. of Stations</b>	1
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	Premises and location satisfactory Disabled access - adequate Parking – limited off-street parking on site

## Proposed Polling District

**Acting Returning Officer's Representations**

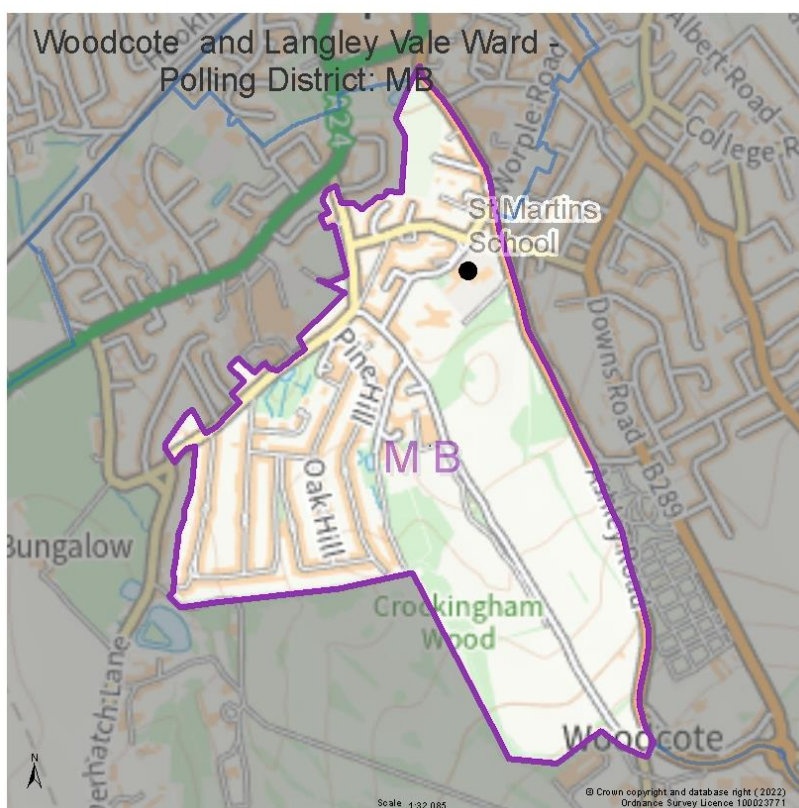
No adverse feedback has been received post the May 2021 elections.

**I consider the polling district and polling place appropriate.**

**Woodcote and Langley Vale Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>M(B)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>1556</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>374</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	St. Martins C of E Junior School, Ashley Road, Epsom
<b>No. of Stations</b>	1
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	<p>Premises and location satisfactory  Disabled access – adequate  Vehicle access via Ashley Road only  Parking – off-street parking available on school premises</p> <p>It is Council policy to avoid the use of schools wherever possible but there are no other suitable premises in the area. Schools are notified of scheduled elections as early as possible, preferably before the start of the academic year, to allow schools the option of setting an INSET day. However, the polling station is located in the Music block, as this building is separate from the main building and can be cordoned off from the rest of the school so that it can remain open on polling day.</p>

## Polling District



**Woodcote and Langley Vale Ward MB (cont)**

**Acting Returning Officer's Representations**

At the time of the previous review, it was reported that as a result of reconfiguration of the premises, discussions with the Headteacher had resulted in the offer of the use of a separate classroom block close to the Ashley Road entrance. These facilities had the advantage of being self-contained and close to the car park for disabled voters. Since this review the accommodation has been used, without the rest of the school having to close. A ramp for the slight lip into the classroom is provided and for the curb from the car park.

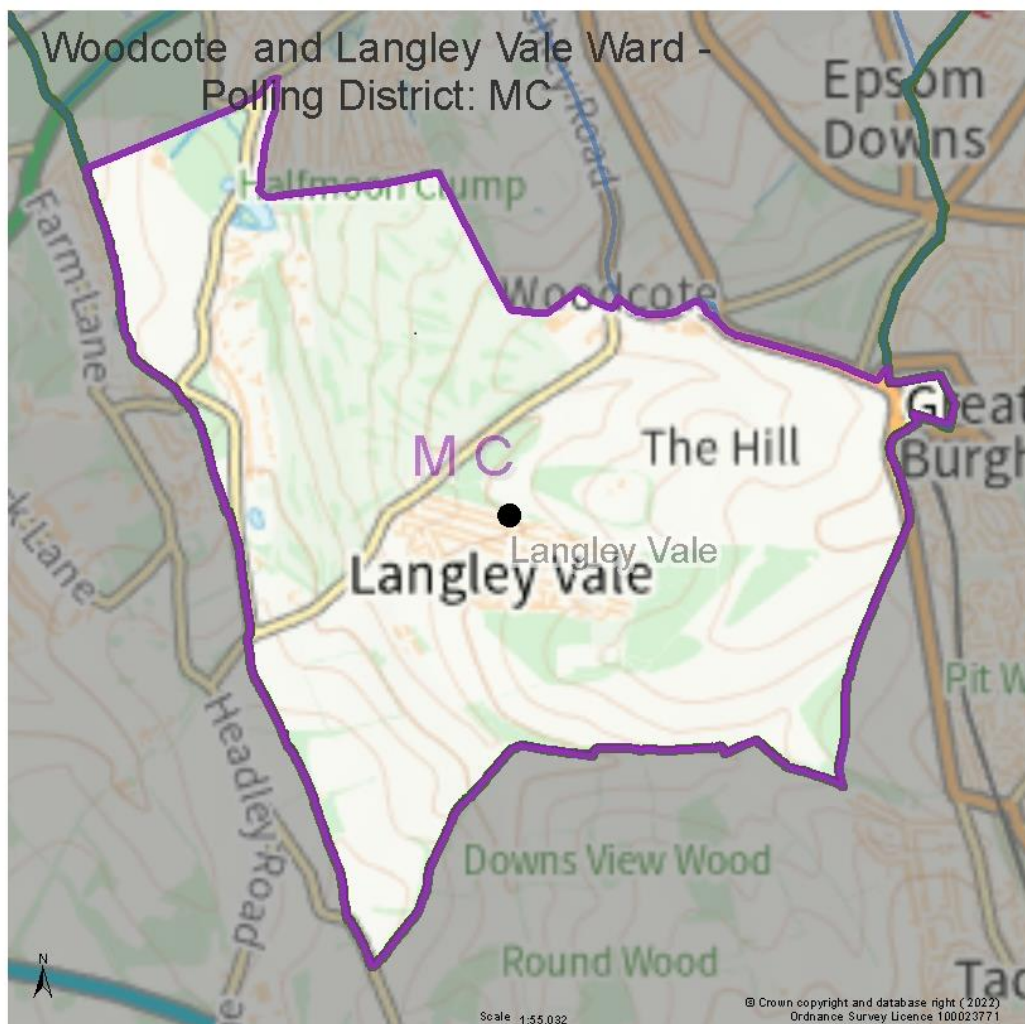
With the use of this classroom block polling day has been successful with the school able to remain open for all elections. The access to the polling station for vehicles is via Ashley Road only and a message to voters is now included on all poll cards so they are aware.

**I consider the polling district to be appropriate and in the absence of any alternatives I consider the polling place appropriate.**

**Woodcote and Langley Vale Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>M(C)</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>1286</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>206</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	Langley Vale Village Hall, Rosebery Road, Epsom
<b>No. of Stations</b>	1
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	No change
<b>Comments</b>	Premises and location satisfactory Disabled access - good Parking – on-street parking available around venue.

Polling District



**Woodcote and Langley Vale Ward MC (cont)**

**Acting Returning Officer's Representations**

During previous reviews there were concerns about accessibility for disabled people due to the sloping access to the Village Hall. It was suggested that the adjacent Church Hall or the school at Langley Vale might be a more appropriate venue.

It is Council policy to avoid the use of schools wherever possible and the school is less conveniently located than the current polling station. A site visit was also made to the Church Hall and although the slope to the building is less than at the Village Hall, the layout of the building was considered unsuitable as a polling place and there would be no advantage in relocating there.

No adverse feedback has been received post the May 2021 elections.

**I therefore consider the current polling district and polling place appropriate.**

**Horton Ward**

Number of Polling Districts	One
Number of Polling Places	One
Electorate in Ward	<b>3307</b>
Postal Voters	<b>648</b>

**Boundary Review Changes**

This a new Ward created from properties previously in Ruxley, Court & Stamford Wards. The Local Boundary Commission review agreed the name of the ward as Horton as part of the review.

The properties that will make up this new ward are

- All those on what is known as Clarendon Park, Livingstone Park, Manor Park and Noble Park
- Also moving are Brettgrave, Briane Road, Chantilly Way, Hook Road (260-330 even & 291-337b odd and Horton Farm House), Long Grove Road, Marston, Parkhurst and Horton Lane.

We do not intend to divide this ward into polling districts but keep it as one polling district. The main reason for dividing a ward into polling districts is electorate and availability of venues to be used as a polling place.

There are limited if no other suitable venues in this ward other than Southfield School which we do not want to use if at all possible, keeping to Council policy of not using schools, and the planned venue is suitable to hold 2 polling stations and accommodate the number of voters in the new created ward.



**Horton Ward (cont)**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>Electorate in District</b>	<b>3307</b>
<b>Postal Voters</b>	<b>648</b>
<b>Polling Place</b>	The Horton Arts Centre, Haven Way, Epsom
<b>No. of Stations</b>	2
<b>Map Ref.</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	New polling place New Ward
<b>Comments</b>	Premises and location satisfactory Disabled access - good Parking – venue car park on site

## Proposed Polling District





**Horton Ward (cont)**

**Acting Returning Officer's Representations**

We received many complaints over the years when we used Southfield School due to it being a double polling station and it was usually closed on polling day. This was due to there being no other suitable venue in the area. The refurbishment of Horton Chapel has taken a long time and had been suggested by many as an alternative to the school in the past. However, now that the work has finished, and the venue is open we hope to use it as a polling place containing 2 polling stations.

**I consider the polling district proposals to be appropriate and the planned polling place to be suitable.**

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	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	<b>Polling District &amp; Polling Places Review 2022</b>						
2							
3	<b>Ward</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Summary of representation</b>	<b>EEBC Response</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	
4							
5	<b>Cuddington</b>	<b>2</b>					
6			1	Epsom & Ewell Conservatives, "Plan seems to be what residents would want"	Comments are noted.	No further action.	
7			2	Cuddington Parish Admin - Confirms premises accessible for disabled visitors, with disabled toilet facilities and disabled parking spaces.	Comments are noted.	No further action.	
8	<b>Auriol</b>	<b>1</b>					
9			1	Epsom & Ewell Conservatives, "Alterations seem to make sense"	Comments are noted.	No further action.	
10	<b>Ewell Court</b>	<b>2</b>					
11			1	Epsom & Ewell Conservatives, "Alterations seem to be geographically sensible"	Comments are noted.	No further action.	
12			2	Ruxley Church Admin - Confirm location is available to use as a Polling Station.	Comments are noted.	No further action.	
13	<b>Ruxley</b>	<b>2</b>					
14			1	Epsom & Ewell Conservatives, "Arrangements seem to make sense with the boundary changes"	Comments are noted.	No further action.	

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
3	Ward	Total	No	Summary of representation	EEBC Response	Outcome	
15			2	CLlr Neil Dallen - Suggests use of Cox Lane building for Ruxley Ward to save Epsom & Ewell High School Polling Station and the crossing of Ruxley Lane for most voters.	The Authority is aware of the effect of having elections at the school and has tried to find a suitable alternative, however this is proving to be difficult. The Cox Lane Centre and Edge Centre have both been visited but their location on the far edge of the Borough is not as central as the school site and there is concern that voters will be less inclined to vote unless living in the immediate/surrounding roads if they have further to travel.	Maintain search for alternative location.	
16	<b>West Ewell</b>	<b>1</b>					
17			1	Epsom & Ewell Conservatives, "These proposals seen sensible with the boundary change"	Comments are noted.	No further action.	
18	<b>Court</b>	<b>1</b>					
19			1	Epsom & Ewell Conservatives, "We have concerns that the properties moved into Court Ward from Town Ward would be better in "FA" Polling District with the rest of Hook Road. As they will have to go through "FA" to get to "FB". This would also reduce the imbalance between electorates. Otherwise the proposals seem sensible.	Not sure what is meant by voters going through FA to get to FB as the boundary for these 2 polling districts do not overlap. The main reason for the Town Ward voters being moved to FB rather than FA is the size of the FA polling venue (Court Recreation Ground Bowling Pavilion), as it is only suitable as a single polling station. The Community & Wellbeing Centre (FB) is more than able to accommodate a double polling station.	No further action.	
20	<b>Stamford</b>	<b>2</b>					

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
3	Ward	Total	No	Summary of representation	EEBC Response	Outcome	
21			1	Epsom & Ewell Conservatives, "The changes seem to make sense with the boundary changes"	Comments are noted.	No further action.	
22			2	Stamford & Horton Wards Residents Associations - Suggests if the proposed boundary changes go ahead that the Polling Stations in Stamford Ward be reduced to two, namely Christ Church Hall and the Wells Community Centre, due to a large number of dwellings currently in Stamford Ward becoming part of Horton and Town Wards. They suggest the Stamford Ward electors who currently use the Epsom Christian Fellowship Hall Polling Station could use the Christ Church Hall Polling Station instead.	These comments reflect what has already been stated in the review and are confirming agreement with the proposals.	No further action.	
23	Stoneleigh	1					
24			1	Epsom & Ewell Conservatives, "These arrangements make sense"	Comments are noted.	No further action.	
25	Nonsuch	2					
26			1	Epsom & Ewell Conservatives, "We support the changes particularly around the NESCOT Polling Station and also the moving of the boundary to increase the size of the "IB" Polling District"	Comments are noted.	No further action.	
27			2	Head Teacher, Wallace Fields Junior School - Supports that the school not to be used as Polling Station now or ever due to disruption to Pupils, Parents and Carers.	With the proposals to change the polling district boundary and the electorate increases, having the polling place at NESCOT is a much better located option than the school. This also accords with the Council policy of not using schools unless there is no other viable option.	No further action.	
28	Ewell	1					
29			1	Epsom & Ewell Conservatives, "Considering the changes in boundaries. The consolidation makes a lot of sense"	Comments are noted.	No further action.	
30	Town	2					

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
3	Ward	Total	No	Summary of representation	EEBC Response	Outcome	
31			1	Epsom & Ewell Conservatives, "We have doubts about moving the Hook Road and Adelphi Road area from "KA" to "KC"	The main reason for the Town ward KA voters being moved to KC is to even out the electorate at the polling stations	No further action.	
32			2	Epsom & Ewell Conservatives, "We have doubts about merging of the former GA properties into "KC" as that means residents having to go through the High Street or Station (so through another Polling District). There appears to be no easy pedestrian route.	The main reason for the former GA voters being moved to KC is to even out the electorate at the polling stations and not make the electorate too large to be managed at the Epsom Playhouse	No further action.	
33	College	3					
34			1	Epsom & Ewell Conservatives, "The arrangements seem to make sense with the boundary changes"	Noted	No further action.	
35			2	Cllr Nigel Collin - Polling Station provisions are adequate if arrangements the same as for last local election.	Noted	No further action.	
36			3	College Ward Residents Association - Confirms suitability of Church House (LB) and Alex Rec Pavilion (LA) as future Polling Stations.	Noted	No further action.	
37	Woodcote	1					
38			1	Epsom & Ewell Conservatives, "We support the plans here. But note the concerns in Langley Vale with the Polling Station Access"	Noted	No further action.	
39	Horton	2					

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
3	Ward	Total	No	Summary of representation	EEBC Response	Outcome	
40			1	Epsom & Ewell Conservatives, "We feel that a second Polling Station in the South of the Ward is essential as Noble Park and parts of Manor Park are too far to walk to Horton Chapel Polling Station. Also the transport links in the South of the Ward by bus go back to the Town centre not northwards. Though it is not favoured, we would suggest either a conversation with the NHS about premises in Noble Park or a temporary Polling Station."	The proposed use of the Horton Arts Centre is considered to be suitable as it is central to the 4 estates that will vote there and the venue is large enough to contain a double polling station. Previously voters in Clarendon Park were in Ruxley ward and had to travel to Epsom & Ewell High School to vote which is considerably further away than the new proposed polling place. Voters in Noble and Manor Park were previously in Stamford Ward and voted at Christ Church Hall which is a similar distance to the proposed polling place. We would not be in favour of proving either temporary units or ceating seperate polling places/districts without real need. Noble Park currently has just under 750 registered voters so does not warrant a seperate polling place.	No further action.	
41			2	Stamford & Horton Wards Residents Associations - Acknowledge that residents of Noble Park and Manor Park who currently use Christ Church Hall Polling Station will use the Horton Arts and Culture building Polling Station in the future.	As with the comments for Stamford Ward these comments reflect what has already been proposed in the review, so are confirming agreement with the proposals.	No further action.	

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**EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Committee may pass a resolution to exclude the public from the Meeting for Part Two of the Agenda on the grounds that the business involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act (as amended) and that pursuant to paragraph 10 of Part 2 of the said Schedule 12A the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

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